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Canada's National Law Enforcement Magazine

December 1996 



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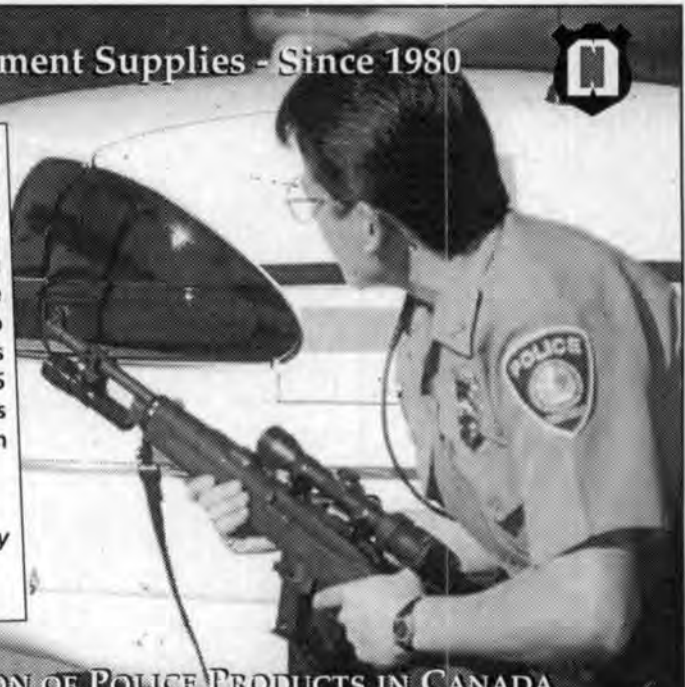


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BLUE LINE

Canada's National Law Enforcement Magazine December 1996



Visitors to northwest England will be the first to see the British police officer's familiar tunic and helmet updated by a more practical North American style jacket and newly designed trousers next year.

Constable Diane Livsey, of the Greater Manchester police force, models the new "Bobby" look. The updated clothes, which replace the traditional uniform first introduced in 1863, has been designed after months of consultations with the officers who will wear it. (What a stunning idea!)

Manchester Chief David Wilmot stated in a press release: "The nature of the job has changed so much that the type and style of uniform had to be reviewed. The Police Authority and the force have been enthusiastic and keen to push ahead with trials in order to ensure that our operational police officers are able to keep pace with the demands of modern policing in terms of uniforms and equipment requirements."

"The change", a London Press news service reports, "marks the systematic modernization of the attire and equipment of the UK's forces to meet the requirements of modern policing." The press release concludes by reporting "the new uniforms will also accommodate the wearing of covert protective body armour." However the actual issuing of such body armour is not part of the new changes.

The British government's Home Office has steadfastly refused the general issuing of body armour to their officers in spite of numerous deaths over recent years. The Home Office has gone even further in demanding that Canadian officers cease the practice of donating body armour. Body armour in Great Britain typically costs an officer around one month's wages.

Protective body armour is not just to stop bullets. It has been proven to stop blunt weapon assaults, some knife attacks and saved several lives in motor vehicle crashes.

Recently the Durham Regional police Service donated the largest single lot of body armour to British police. Learn how they did it in this edition of Blue Line — and donate a set yourself. It is a wonderful way to say Merry Christmas with a gift that keeps on giving.

BLUE LINE Magazine
Volume 8 Number 10
December 1996
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Blue Line Magazine is published monthly, September to June, by Blue Line Magazine Incorporated with a mailing address of: 12A - 4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham, Ontario, L3R 1N1. Subscriptions are \$25.00 per year. (\$50.00 for U.S. & Foreign)

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Blue Line Magazine is an independent publication designed to entertain, educate and upgrade the skills of those involved in the law enforcement profession. It has no direct control from a law enforcement agency and its opinions and articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any government, police, or law enforcement agency.

Blue Line Magazine is printed in Canada

- Affiliations -

International Association of Law Enforcement Planners
Canadian Advertising Rates & Data
The Canadian Press Newswire
Periodical Publishers Exchange
International Police Association



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ISSN #0847 8538

Canada Post Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 176796



Professional Ethics vs. The Code of Silence

by Gil Puder

Joel, you couldn't be more wrong, (*Did you See That?*, Nov. '96, p 6). Police ethics shouldn't discourage officers from reporting perceived misconduct when a peer uses force. In fact, both case law and any semblance of honourable duty absolutely demand it. Particularly when our own department's previous chief constable resigned during a scandalous judicial inquiry into the failure to adequately report a serious use of force, you of all people should understand this.

Any officer witnessing a forceful response by another has not only the right but the obligation to represent their perceptions and evaluation of the event. This is not to say that those versions will be completely accurate, or even correct. Maintaining public trust, however, requires police to forthrightly present their observations for review. Although the overwhelming proportion of police uses of force are both reasonable and necessary, we can't allow organizational politics and a culture endorsing the "code of silence" to intimidate officers into neglecting their responsibility.

Firstly, the fact that an uninvolved officer may not be present for an incident in its entirety does not make their evidence damaging, it merely limits the scope of observance. Few witnesses to any event view the circumstances completely, or from the perspective of the involved parties. It is the mandate of the investigator, which in this context would likely be an operational supervisor, to gather all evidence and make consequent recommendations.

Witnesses in other investigations seldom have the exact same experience, timing, position, and skill set as the participants, yet we still require that information to reach conclusions, and resultant evidence for courts to make findings. Investigating police conduct is no different.

When a witness officer has a limited viewpoint or exhibits poor judgement in venturing an opinion, quality supervision should provide education and correction to that individual. This ensures that the member returns to duty believing that their evidence, while perhaps flawed, had value and was fairly heard, and that due process had in fact been followed. Secondly, there is little evidence of career advancement motivating police to negatively evaluate peer performance. The converse is in fact true, when officers who report what they believe to be abuse of force are routinely subjected to ostracism, thinly veiled threats, and the potential to be characterized as a "whimp" who "can't take it" when the going gets rough. Whistleblowing has an extensive and documented history of repercussion in policing.

I have the dubious distinction of being an officer who has reported criminal conduct and named another officer as a suspect. My reward was a forced transfer, senior officers covering



Illustration: J. P. [unreadable]

up for friends, subjection to an internal investigation initiated by one of the suspects (and found to be completely without substance), vicious slandering of an ill family member, and the necessity of retaining legal counsel to remind the old boys club what liability exposure is. I know many other officers, in several agencies, who have similar experiences. Could you please explain how this treatment qualifies as career advancement?

Thirdly, any evidence offered, whether expert or no, need not be limited to the behaviour of officer(s) and subject(s). The inadequacies of a two-dimensional force model have been studied,¹ and these models are not supported by the science of human performance.

- Fundamentally, people:
- 1) evaluate a situation (input);
 - 2) select a response (decision);
 - 3) perform an action (output).²

Police use of force is simply human performance in a specific context, and I think our officers deserve more credit than expecting a Pavlovian response to someone's conceptual model or procedure. Furthermore, those of us with skills and experiences above those of the average practitioner have no business discouraging line officers from voicing opinion; rather, we have an obligation to assist them with accurate articulation.

Lastly, the self-serving notion that subjects choose to resist is only supportable by circumstantial evidence, and is not a generality worthy of a training principle. Empirical research in our own jurisdiction shows that a huge percentage of people who died through police intervention were serious substance abusers, emotionally disturbed, or both.³ Although behaviour may have deliberately forced a deadly response,

their mental state refutes any suggestion of rational choice. We can't be excusing police conduct with phrases like, "sometimes good people must hurt bad people."⁴ Too often it just isn't so, and this sort of "we-they" siege mentality has been identified as symptomatic of a value system prone to excessive force.⁵ Our role is not to judge people, particularly when the behaviour we observe may be out of character, influenced by drugs or emotional breakdown. We are simply public servants responding to the demands of ever-changing situations, and occasionally the safety of ourselves or others may require an application of force.

I think you've badly confused professional ethics with bureaucratic loyalty, and in policing the twain do not yet meet. We have a long way to go before we can air our differences in a professional forum, carrying on afterwards with mutual respect, and discouraging a troubled officer from voicing concerns won't help.

Doubtless the old boys' club will slap backs and buy beers in support of the "my brother right or wrong" philosophy, but it's a nonstarter for the public we serve. We all end up crying in that same beer when we squander the trust we're given, and naive politicians are forced to step in with draconian review processes.

While your anonymous friend may have been completely justified, and the observant officer badly mistaken, both should be commended for their actions. Whether the observer was wrong in his assessment is a separate matter. Paraphrasing a famous proverb, we may not agree with what someone's got to say, but we'd better respect what is often a lawful requirement to say it.

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Two-stepping it to chopper acquisition

by Blair McQuillan
Editor - Ten-Seven Magazine

Recently, while sifting through Blue Line Magazine's vast archives, I came across a story about HAWC 1, Calgary's police helicopter. As I read the glowing report that reviewed the chopper's first year on the beat, I couldn't help but be reminded of other stories that didn't have a happy ending, including:

❖ **A shooting incident involving a detective from Ontario's York Regional police.**

In June, the detective was forced into a situation where he had to shoot at a 16-year-old youth. The youth, who was wanted in connection with two gunpoint car-jackings, was fatally wounded after he clipped the detective with a stolen Jeep he was driving.

A friend of the deceased who was in the Jeep said the boy was attempting to flee the scene.

❖ **A decision on the part of the Crown in Winnipeg, to investigate a 16-year-old boy's complaint that he was beaten by police after a high-speed chase.**

The incident, which occurred last August, ended when the stolen van the youth was driving crashed into a chain-link fence. A medical report verified that the boy was treated for injuries.

❖ **A car crash in Surrey, B.C., involving two RCMP constables.**

On September 8, the officers were involved in a collision with two break and enter suspects. One constable suffered a broken collar bone and serious head injuries in the crash, while the other received multiple fracture, back, pelvic and other injuries.

One cannot help but think that these incidents could have been prevented with the presence of a police helicopter. At the very least fatalities and injuries may have been prevented, vehicles may not have been damaged and money would not have to be spent on investigations into the incidents.

Just as crooks don't have boundaries neither should a police helicopter unit. Police forces need to co-operate with each other. Before a service prepares to purchase a helicopter, it would be a good idea to contact forces in the surrounding area and ask them if they are looking to do the same.

If neighbouring agencies seem hesitant it does not take much effort to tell them why a helicopter would be a benefit to the area. If they're still unconvinced, use the Calgary experience as an argument.

As of May 30, 1996, HAWC 1 had re-

sponded to 2,369 calls and was the first unit on the scene 1,362 times, a rate of 65%. The chopper has responded to 320 assault incidents, 111 stolen auto calls and 31 missing person reports.

The HAWC 1 has also been involved in 13 vehicle pursuits; all of which resulted in the apprehension of the driver with no injuries to police officers or the public. With numbers like these, it would be hard to argue over the effect a helicopter would have on a community.

If funds are short the best method to acquiring a helicopter is gaining community support. Citizens will undoubtedly be in favour of supporting such a cause and shouldn't be adverse to contributing to get the project off the ground (pardon the pun). It is also helpful if the money is donated to a non-profit organization such as HAWC or the Southern Ontario based Regional Air Support Program. Corporate donors and individuals both benefit from the tax deduction.

Is the community behind the idea? An independent survey of a cross-section of the population in Calgary showed approximately 96% of those interviewed were in favour of the operation.

One last tidbit. A criminal recently arrested in Edmonton explained to police that he moved to the city because they didn't have a helicopter.



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London Police reporting centre faces new realities of serving the public

by Deputy Chief Elgin Austin



Innovative methods being employed by the police must offer improved service to the community and have their support. In this regard the new London Police Reporting Centre has provided improved service delivery to the community and received overwhelming public acceptance.

Police organizations, in this era of cost restraint and accountability for the efficient management of public funds, cannot afford to pursue a management practice of "business as usual." Massive changes are inevitable and are occurring universally in both the public sector and in private enterprise. Real savings and efficiency require more than merely tinkering with systems. Although we may believe there is nothing new in policing, and everything has already been tried, genuine advantages can still be derived by taking an analytical business approach to police service delivery and such an approach in police management requires a transformation to a new way of creative thinking.

Savings, in policing costs, have been realized through such measures as downsizing, automation, alternate response, false alarm reduction programs, priority response, and problem oriented strategies. All of these are important initiatives; however, in our exuberance to fine tune diminishing police budgets, and become more proficient, we must guard against becoming so

efficient that soon we will be doing nothing for anyone.

Re-engineering for real efficiency, in order to assign the police to crime fighting priorities, requires more than window dressing solutions. Long term business based planning needs to be included in police strategies.

Toward this end the London Police Reporting Centre was developed. It is approximately 8000 square feet and was constructed, and is entirely supported, by private enterprise. It accepts the reporting of property damage collisions, theft from vehicles and wilful damage to vehicles for London and the surrounding area. It is conveniently located in a central area of the city and is accessible from nearby major truck routes. Appropriate highway signage provides direction to motorists.

The London Police Versaterm computer aided dispatch system, at police headquarters, is networked with computer equipment at the police reporting centre, 1001 Brydges Street. Collisions are entered on a queuing system from either the reporting centre or at the 911 emergency communications centre at police headquarters.

Damage and theft reports are entered in a similar manner on a separate queue. CPIC access as well as direct entry to and retrieval from the police records system form part of the network.

Citizens reporting a collision have their damage video recorded in a large garage bay adjoining the centre and are then assisted by police officers. Privately funded greeting staff aid the citizen in completing the necessary report. Tow trucks that bring damaged vehicles to the centre continue on their way to a body shop of the owner's choice within minutes of arriving at the centre.

Insurance representatives, or those acting on their behalf, offer advice to their customer who has been the victim of a collision or other incident reported at the centre. Within a matter of hours reports are processed, information is forwarded to insurance companies, a rental car, if required, is supplied and the damaged vehicle is removed for repair.

Information from a citizen reporting damage or theft is entered directly into the police records system with the victim immediately receiving a printout of the report, which they are required to sign. This report is then passed on to an insurance representative at the centre who processes the claim.

Collisions involving injury or damage to public property and theft / damage incidents, where there are investigative indicators, are dealt with by patrol officers attending at the scene of the occurrence.

London Police will be closing the door on unscrupulous accident chasing bandit tow operators with the installation of a high-tech Ericsson trunked 800 MHz radio communications system. The system, not susceptible to monitoring, is completely

digitized, privacy encrypted, and will be networked with smart portable Pentium-based mobile work stations in the patrol cruisers.

At the police reporting centre experienced police officers, expressly selected because of their personal skills, deal directly with the public and ensure a proper inspection of vehicles and the accuracy of reports. The future potential exists for extending further reporting privileges to the public on a variety of additional occurrences.

Success for this type of venture must be gauged on improved convenience, enhanced customer service, and added public/private benefits while providing cost effective operations for the police. A reduction in collision investigation time from one hundred minutes per incident to approximately ten minutes, is expected. Considering seven thousand reportable motor vehicle collisions in London annually and another seven thousand theft damage reports, significant benefits will be derived.

Innovative strategies, improved communications, technology, partnerships and team work, permit business to be conducted in a variety of ways. New methods of operation need to be evaluated against their value to the public and the realization for genuine savings. Our remaining steadily

shrinking resources must be directed to processes that are germane to our core mandate of public safety and security.

While remarkable progress can be achieved through ingenuity and systems re-engineering, we must never lose sight of the integrity of our profession and service to the public. In the case of the new Police Reporting Centre in London, Ontario, it is being hailed as a winner for all.

Police say foot patrols keeping crime down

Arrest statistics kept by the London Police Force indicate that crime in downtown London is down and police say new foot patrols deserve the credit.

London police reported last August that all criminal charges except break-and-enter and theft have declined this year and this included assaults, disturbances and weapons charges.

Sgt. Jack Churney said to local media that it is mostly due to increased foot patrol. "They've learned to know the area and the people in it," he said to the local media. "It has made quite an impact."

The foot patrol, which began two years ago, has five officers roaming downtown streets between 11 a.m. and 3 a.m. every day.

There were 2,684 break-and-enter charges laid between January and July this year. Of those, only 0.3 per cent occurred in the city's core.

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GOING MOBILE

The next step in mobile computing technology has finally arrived



by Tom Rataj
Computers and Technology Editor

Sitting here, plunking away at my computer, it's hard to image the sense of astonishment and wonder felt by our long gone brothers in blue when the first police "call-box" was introduced. What a revolution in communications it must have been, going from relying on nothing but your wits and intuition, to being able to call the station and ask for information, advice or assistance.

Soon after, the mobile two-way radio arrived on the scene, certainly revolutionizing policing even more than the lowly call-box ever could have. It took many years more, but the introduction of the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) then changed things forever. Instant access to massive amounts of computerised data, available wherever and whenever it was needed made the call-box and radio pale by comparison.

By today's technology standards though, the MDT has become a slow and limited tool of the trade. An ever growing number of manufac-

turers have introduced state-of-the-art ruggedized computers that replace the MDT. They combine staggering on-board computing and communications power, with productivity features rivalling and often exceeding typical desk-top computers. No longer just a "terminal," these machines are defining a new niche, suitably labelled the Mobile Work Station (MWS).

These full featured, Intel Pentium driven portable computers, with brilliant sunlight readable colour liquid crystal displays (LCD), are built to survive the rigors of the policing environment, and are the clear successor to the MDT.

INFORMATION IS POWER

This famous expression quite correctly defines the correlation between power and information. Policing, especially modern policing, is as successful as it is through the efficient and effective gathering, analysis, dissemination, and use of information. Absolutely everything we do relies on information.

Several studies conducted to assess the ef-

fectiveness of the MDT, showed that the recovery rate for stolen autos, and arrests of wanted persons, increased significantly within weeks of their introduction.

Many officers who have used MDT's regularly for several years complain that they feel as if they are driving around blind when the MDT system fails.

There are even those who would argue that officers fail to fully develop basic investigative "beat" skills because they always rely on their information systems to provide them with the answers. While this may be true to a degree, the phenomenal power of information far outweighs any loss of skill.

Officer safety alone has increased almost immeasurably with the almost unlimited access to information brought about with the introduction of the MDT.

The step up to the MWS finally provides the means to bring the functionality of the computer at the station, to the officer in the car. Properly networked, the MWS serves as the platform for complete access to every information system available at the station and more.

Electronic information gathering and processing with built-in quality control measures can finally be used at the front line, virtually eliminating the need to hand-write reports and manually process information. On-line processing of information also eliminates the 1 to 2 week delays often associated with processing paperwork, thereby providing all officers with up to the minute information on what is going on in other parts of the city. The efficiency, effectiveness, and resultant cost saving associated with such a complete mobile computing solution, will make the MWS a necessary tool of the trade.

ENVIRONMENTALS

The interior of police vehicles must surely qualify as an extreme environment. A MWS must be able to take in-stride every possible environmental combination thrown at it by nature; vibration, shock, and the occasional spilled coffee. The often used term "mission critical" certainly applies to the MWS.

Leaving a MWS locked in a car over-night during a mid-February deep-freeze almost anywhere in Canada must be a survivable experience. Just the same, the bump and grind of a pursuit during a mid-August heat-wave, and the occasional crash, need to be taken in-stride also.

A colour display, capable of being clearly read in the brightest sunshine, also needs to be capable of clearly and accurately displaying data, maps, and colour pictures of bandits.

Night-time also presents some unique challenges for a MWS. Again, screen readability

during night-time operations is crucial, so the screen needs to have effective lighting, which can be controlled to suit individual conditions. Keyboards also need to be readable during night-time in-car operations.

Since the MWS is not the only electronic device inside the police car, it needs to be radio-frequency (RF) hardened so that it does not suffer from interference from radios and other electronic equipment.

Size and shape too are concerns, as police vehicles are only getting smaller. The MWS needs to be easily and securely mounted in a position where it is easy to use, while happily coexisting with other equipment, one or two officers, and two air-bags.

Some system integrators market systems, that while based on completely customised solutions, use standard off-the-shelf consumer-grade laptop computers instead of ruggedized machines.

Their approach is rationalised by money and compares the long term costs between the two types of machines. They assume that a consumer grade machine will actually survive for 2 years, and that the technological advances that occur within that 2 year period make the machine obsolete anyway.

They use the initial high cost of a ruggedized machine, and its degree of technological obsolescence that occurs during its 4 or 5 year service life, as support for their approach. Evidence to support either side of the argument needs to be gathered to provide an accurate assessment.

I am highly doubtful of the survivability of consumer grade machines because every laptop torture test I have ever read in major trade publications shows that they fail to survive many typical business environment accidents.

While ruggedized laptops do carry a hefty price, they are more suited to the rigors of being bounced around inside a police car. Since easy removal from within the car would be mandatory, a MWS must be able to survive the odd "accidental" fall. A non-ruggedized laptop is virtually guaranteed to make its last computation seconds before plummeting onto the pavement below.

PORTABILITY

As with a cellular phone fixed into a car, a MWS fixed into the car simply is not acceptable anymore. Therefore, a MWS needs to be able to be un-docked from a vehicle mount and carried into a crime scene without serious risk of damage. Several machines currently on the market are advertised as being able to continue operating even after being dropped 1m onto a hard surface.

While docked inside a car, the MWS needs to be able to run off vehicle power, while the batteries are trickle fed so they are always ready to go. When removed from the vehicle, a nickel-metal-hydride (Ni-MH) battery, or better, needs to be capable of providing sufficient power for several hours of continuous use.

COMMUNICATION

Operating on some type of mobile Radio Frequency (RF), a MWS would certainly be seriously handicapped if its communications

capability were limited in car operations. The RF communications hardware must be built into the MWS, and be capable of providing adequate power and range so that the full functionality of the unit does not suffer.

Some vendors and system integrators catering to the police MWS market have chosen to use public radio data networks such as ARDIS or MOBITEK instead of using the traditional private data communications network. There are some compelling arguments for (and against) using public data networks for confidential police communications.

On the private data networking end of the scale, perennial market leader Motorola more or less stands unchallenged. Their MDC-4800 protocol or their newer RD-LAP protocol connects to data networks at rates of 9.6 or 19.2 kbps. Again, like the public radio data networks, there are compelling arguments both for and against the implementation and use of a private data network.

Either way, some type of digital encrypted communications protocol should be used to ensure a high degree of confidentiality and quality of transmission.

USER INTERFACE

The goal of any type of user interface designed for the MWS would be to reduce the amount of typing required. One of the advantages of the old MDT was the fact that there were few options and the interface was consistent and limited to function keys and a more or less standard QWERTY keyboard.

Since the MWS is essentially a ruggedized portable computer, it should be capable of running any type of software, up to and including Microsoft Windows NT 4.0.

This does however present a number of problems. A graphical user interface such as Windows requires a mouse or some other type of pointing device to navigate around the screen. Using this type of device within a moving vehicle is obviously impractical.

Touch-screen and pen-based technologies have some advantages, although they too suffer from problems similar to those encountered by pointing devices. While voice recognition/navigation technology is not currently mature enough for mainstream use, the ability to support it would certainly be mandatory in a MWS.

(Continued...)

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CONCLUSION

Wow! The time has never been better to jump headlong into the "completely" connected world of the MWS. The hardware and software that now exists, leaves few roadblocks to a completely integrated voice and data communications system.

Automated reporting, on-screen mug-shots, digitized mapping, and complete access to every internal data-base, CPIC, and Transportation Ministry files is within easy reach of virtually every agency.

The advantages to such unrestricted access to information, allow the modern police officer to have most of the answers before having to ask the questions. Check out some of the hardware showcased with this article, stop drooling, and start planning.

CONTENDERS SHOWCASE

TELXON PTC-1184DX



A pen-based wireless computer with some potential is the PTC-1184DX by Telxon. Using a concept similar to the Motorola Forté, the Telxon uses a slightly faster 486DX/2-50 processor and memory limit of 32MB. A slightly larger 9.5" monochrome transfective LCD display, uses a similar electromagnetic digitizer pen to allow the user to interact with which ever application is being used.

Support for standard computer hardware is provided at the back of a charcoal grey polycarbonate/ABS plastic case.

Contact: Telxon at 905 475-8867.

MOTOROLA FORTÉ



Communications heavyweight Motorola, recently introduce a pen-based wireless computer that initially appears to be the perfect solution. The Motorola Forté is a 486 based ruggedized pen-based computer designed to be used both as a docked and hand-held device. The custom

designed user interface relies largely on a pen-based interface, where the user manipulates images on the 7.4" transfective monochrome LCD display with an electromagnetic digitizer pen.

The bright blue/green rubberised housing, with integrated speaker, microphone, and wireless 3 watt radio and antenna, give it a high-tech futuristic look. Standard computer ports and features round out the unit, although it only comes with a rather dated and slow 486SX-25 processor and a 8MB memory limit.

Although the unit basically comes with all the parts to use voice recognition/navigation I wonder whether it will ever be able to run this type of software due to its rather lame processor, and low memory capacity. Motorola needs to rethink their strategy in order to make this unit a viable MWS solution.

Contact: Motorola at: —
<http://www.motorola.com>

DOLCH NotePAC



The Dolch NotePAC all-metal rugged notebook computer is manufactured with a sealed, cast-alloy case, and internal shock dampening mountings that are advertised to help it withstand a 15G shock while operating. Special vibration dampening mounts are designed to allow the machine to operate continuously in a 2G random vibration environment such as in a helicopter or off-road vehicle.

This machine can be optioned-out with everything from PCMCIA type II and III cards, GPS receivers or an additional ISA AT card or two PC104 modules. Display options consist of a 10.4" sunlight readable monochrome screen up to and including a huge 12.1" active matrix SVGA colour display.

The only currently available processor is an Intel 486 DX4-100, which when coupled to a maximum 36 MB memory, and a 1.2 GB hard-drive, makes the unit quite capable of running every flavour of Windows up to Windows NT 4.0.

Contact: Dolch Computer systems at 905 890-2010.

PANASONIC CF-25

Even mainstream consumer electronics giant Matsushita has entered the fray with a Panasonic branded heavy duty "Off-Road" CF-25 notebook computer. Also starting with a

magnesium alloy frame, this machine features "Cosmo Gel" a space-age impact deadening material that is used in various strategic locations to protect components.

Available only with Pentium processors, RAM expandable to 72 MB, various hard-drive options, sound support, and the usual other options, the CF-25 starts at a reasonable CDN\$5,000.

Contact: Panasonic at (905)238-2405 or <http://www.panasonic.ca>

STEALTH WARRIOR



Toronto-based Stealth Computer Corp. introduced the new Notebook Warrior to their existing line of ruggedized products. Designed with the mobile in-transit user in mind, the Notebook Warrior is built to survive all of the shock, vibration and rough treatment that it is likely to receive in a real-world application. This vibration proof, high impact, weather-resistant PC is encapsulated in die-cast aluminum and can withstand an accidental 3 foot drop onto solid concrete. To ensure data security, Stealth has designed a slide-out, removable hard disk drive as a standard feature on all models. Hard disks can be interchanged or upgraded in a matter of seconds and available in 810MB or 1.35 GB capacities. The Notebook Warrior is available in both 486 and Pentium processors. This computer offers a unique expansion capability with an optional expansion slice that will accommodate an AT ISA card, two PC104 cards or a CD-ROM. With prices under \$6,000 it is worth a long look. Contact: Stealth (416) 674-3800 or at <http://www.stealth.ca>

MICROSLATE DATELLITE 400L

Honourable mention also goes to Quebec based MicroSlate, with their Datellite 400L "Pen'n Touch" interface. This Cyrix 486SLC-50 processor based unit provides a uniquely flexible acrylic digitizer panel over a backlit transfective black on white LCD display measuring 9.4" diagonally.

The user interface allows for the use of a bare finger-tip, a passive pen or other non-electronic pointing device, or an external keyboard. The ruggedly designed black polymer-blend plastic case is designed to meet military specifications, and includes various internal shock dampening features to allow the unit to continue functioning under adverse conditions.

Contact: MicroSlate (514)444-3680.



Virtually indestructible in appearance, and at a whopping US\$ 10-12,000, the creme of the crop in rugged notebook computers is The Fieldworks Inc. 5000 Series workstation. Built around a rubber coated magnesium alloy chassis it is advertised to withstand a 100G high intensity shock while operating.

Using a modular approach, Fieldworks has built a machine that is totally customisable using a wide choice of components; processors up to the Intel Pentium 133, loads of memory, 1.3 GB hard-drives, built-in 16 Bit Stereo Sound with integrated speakers, CD-ROM drive, and 4 different 10.4" sunlight readable monochrome or colour monitors.

This unit was recently chosen by the Metropolitan Toronto Police as part of a pilot project to replace their aging collection of MDI brand mobile data terminals.

Phone—612-947-0856.

The world's best police trainers are headed to Buffalo

The largest Police and Law Enforcement Training Conference in the world is coming to Buffalo in January.

The American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, ASLET, expects more than 700 participants at its Tenth Annual International Training Seminar to be held at the Buffalo Convention Center. The conference opens January 21st and runs through the 25th.

"There will be more than 100 courses offered in 16 subject areas during the conference" said Host Committee Chairman Chief Christopher Clark of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

The curriculum will cover a wide variety of topics including community oriented policing, surviving plain clothes confrontations, hostage negotiations, new safer methods for handcuffing and instructor development. Instructors at the Seminar will come from 25 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and England.

In addition, more than 100 companies will be offering the latest in police equipment and technology at the Law Enforcement Exposition at the Convention Center on January 21 to 23.

ASLET is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the training needs of all kinds of law enforcement agencies. Headquartered in Lewes, Delaware, ASLET has more than 5,000 members in 17 countries. Members include police academy directors, field training officers, firearms instructors, defensive tactics instructors, Emergency Vehicle Operation instructors, police administrators, and attorneys.

ASLET's goal is simply to encourage the development and use of the best training programs available which will enhance the safety of law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve.

This is the first time that ASLET has held a conference in New York State. Previous sites for the International Training Seminar have included the Dallas suburb of Grapevine, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C. and Anchorage, Alaska.

"We hope that the people of Western New York and southern Ontario will join us in giving the conference participants a warm welcome," said Clark. "Many of these people have never been to Buffalo and we have a unique opportunity to shape their opinion of this region."

Clark added that more than a dozen federal, state and local police agencies have joined forces to bring ASLET to Buffalo. The training seminar is being sponsored by the Buffalo Police Department, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, the Amherst Police Department, the Cheektowaga Police Department, the Town of Tonawanda Police Department, the Lackawanna Police Department, the Buffalo District Office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Public Safety Department of the State University of New York and the Public Safety Department of the Buffalo Housing Authority.

For More Information contact Chief Christopher Clark Host Committee Chairman Erie County Sheriff's Office 716 858-7630.

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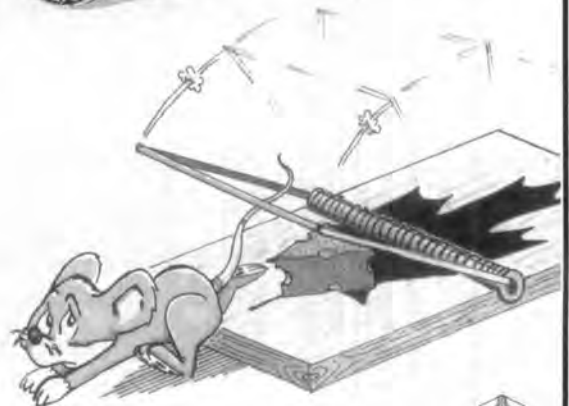


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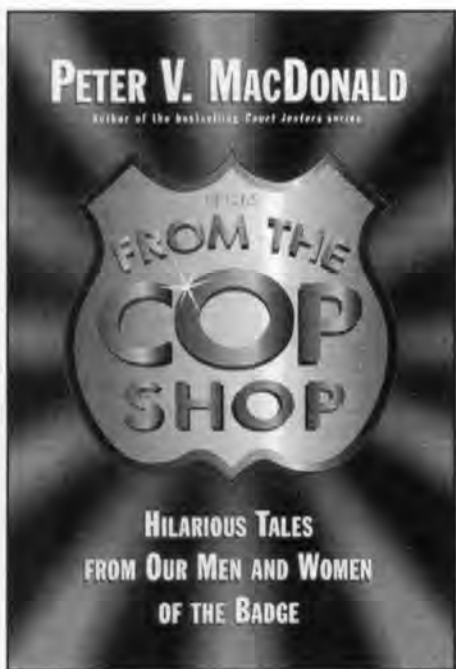
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The following are a few tidbits from Peter MacDonald as a warm-up for the Christmas season. Peter advises he is still looking for more humour and wishes you to feel free to send your mirthful adventures to him. If you wish to purchase his book it is available at your local book store or call or fax your request to Blue Line Magazine. Details on page 31.

Constable Duncan Chisholm of the RCMP detachment in Deer Lake, Newfoundland, relates one of his all-time favourites about stupid crooks:

In Holyrood, Newfoundland, in 1984 I responded to a call from the proprietor of a well-known local business, who reported that the office safe had been sawed open and "all the money" taken away. When I arrived, the man who'd called said, "You won't believe this, officer. Just take a look at what's been done to this safe." The door of the safe had been cut off completely and was lying on the floor a few feet away. I figured it must have taken the burglar about five hours to accomplish this feat. "How much money did you lose?" I asked the owner. "Two rolls of nickels and a roll of dimes," he replied. I chuckled and said, "At last, I have an honest-to-God nickel-and-dime case." "Well, hold it," the owner said. "It gets better—a lot better." "What do you mean?" I asked eagerly. "The safe wasn't even locked! We never lock it!"

A Florida bank robber ran from the scene of the crime clutching a sack of money and looking around anxiously for his buddy, the driver of the getaway car. He jumped into a vehicle of similar description, operated by a plainclothes policeman who, it just happened, was waiting for his sidekick at the time.

A young couple in Hoboken, New Jersey, pulled off a successful robbery, but failed miserably in their bid for a fast exit—they flagged down a police car they thought was a taxi and were driven straight to the slammer.

And in California in 1976 a chap named Alfred Rivera robbed a bar, then hotfooted it to a prearranged location where his accomplice waited anxiously for him to jump into the getaway car. A little too anxiously, it seems, for Al was run down by his overzealous partner, and the hapless pair were carted off to the clink.

Several years ago the San Diego Police Department's excellent but unfortunately now-defunct newsletter, Up Front, carried this cute little item under the heading "Dumb Criminal of the Month":

The prize goes to Roland Stewart, wanted for a Miami Beach homicide. Ol' Rollie was vacationing/hiding in San Diego when he called and turned himself in to SDPD Homicide. So far, so good? Wait for it. Mr. Stewart turned himself in because he heard there was a \$10,000 reward for his capture and he needed the money. Homicide detectives were heard muttering something about IQs below room temperature.

Up Front introduced another "Dumb Criminal of the Month" as follows: El Cajon PD captured a purse-snatch suspect right after the fact and immediately set up a curbside ID. The police car drove the victim to the suspect's location, just like the directions said. Before the astonished victim could get a word in, the crook peered into the police car and declared, "That's the lady I robbed—right there!" The startled cop said, "Huh? Which one?" and the helpful robber clarified everything by saying, "The one in the pink." Never forget, we catch only the DUMB ones.

In 1995 the Colorado Court of appeals dealt with a rather unappetizing case. It all started when Filbert G. Maestas and an accomplice slipped into a meat-processing plant and swiped what they believed to be 1,200 juicy prime rib and T-bone steaks. But their haul consisted of the rectums of 1,200 butchered animals. Maestas and friend were nabbed outside a meat warehouse by two policemen who found numerous cartons of this godawful cargo in their possession. When the warehouse manager was brought into the picture, he confirmed that the rectums, known in the beef business as rennets, had been stolen from the company plant.

As Maestas and his sidekick were being driven to the police station to be booked, one of the cops started to laugh. Maestas asked him what was so funny, and the officer told him that the rennets were inedible rectal tissue that could be used only in the curing of cheese. Lapsing into plain lingo, the officer told the prisoners they'd stolen 1,200 assholes.

"If I go to jail for stealing 1,200 assholes, I'm really going to be mad," Maestas said in a highly serious tone.

The statement was used against him at his trial, and he and his accomplice were found guilty as charged. But Maestas appealed to the Colorado Court of Appeals, claiming his remark was obtained illegally and saying he was thrown off guard because the officer was laughing at him. The panel of judges denied the appeal, stating that the officer had plenty of reason to be laughing.

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Many robbers are just plain stupid when launching a crime and stay that way right up until their inevitable arrest. But it appears that some—a very small percentage, I'm sure—perform brilliantly for most of their felonious adventure and then suddenly become very, very stupid, indeed.

Take, for example, the imaginative big-league bank heist pulled in downtown Toronto on March 18, 1992, by a fearless rookie robber named Jack Santos.

The night before said caper Santos applied blond dye to his dark brown hair, hoping to disguise his appearance. Suddenly his locks were bright orange.

At noon the next day, Santos, posing as a policeman, was handed \$3 million after showing a bank manager a gun (actually a broken air pistol) and some dynamite (actually Plasticine) wired around his waist. Santos crammed all the loot into a gym bag and left moments after telling the manager he'd planted a bomb on the premises—another tall tale, as it turned out.

He then flagged down a taxi and headed home. Experts agreed it was the perfect crime—until the robber recalled he'd left his apartment keys in an underground parking garage and decided to go back by cab to retrieve them.

When he got to the garage, two blocks from the bank he'd knocked off, he decided he might as well drive home in his own vehicle. He ran smack-dab into a roadblock that had been put up to help nail a bandit with bright orange hair.

The \$3 million, every cent of it, was safe and sound in the gym bag on the back seat of the car.

Santos was convicted of bank robbery and handed a whopping seventeen-year jail sentence, which was later reduced to ten years by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The South Australia Police Department was, and is, a bit of a dinosaur. The hierarchy clings firmly to images of Mum and wild-peach pie. In 1983 this meant that policewomen were meant to be ladies—no matter what the situation. The feminist movement and the Miss Manners brigade were clashing heads at every turn, leaving the department directors slightly dazed.

The nubile women who trained with the boys now wanted to do the same jobs as the boys. Doing the gentry's typing and wiping the noses of snotty lost children just didn't cut it any more.

The lords upon high, however, became more addled and sat down together to ponder. The subject was complex and no consultation was sought, but finally an answer emerged. Women could actually do real police work maybe, but just to be safe and to preserve the sweetness and light of all that women represented, policewomen must wear pretty skirts and ladylike dress shoes with two-inch heels. As for arms and equipment, well, "Stand next to a man, sweetie, and you'll be okay."

Unfortunately for some—and I was one—this led to some dangerous, funny, ridiculous, and sad incidents. Mine goes like this:

I was working an afternoon shift out of police headquarters in Adelaide. I looked good: trim, taut, and terrific in my very tight-fitting navy-blue A-line skirt, with one pocket just big

enough for car keys and not a lot else. The skirt skimmed the knees and, as mentioned, was not very roomy. My gun and other essentials were popped into a handbag Daisy Duck would have been proud of and immediately slung into the boot of the car, until I finished work and handed it all back. Tall, dark, and cute, Bob hopped into the car with me and off we went. The world was a safer place—we were out there.

On this sunny afternoon the radio was quiet, people were happy, and we potted along smiling at everyone. Then it happened. The West Torrens Football Club alarm had been activated, and it was thought the intruders were inside.

We raced to the location, light flashing through the five-o'clock peak-hour traffic. We made it up onto the footpath right outside the grounds. There, on South Road, with a million cars crawling past, was the object of our dash through this crush of cars and pollution. Only one thing stood in our way. A fence. A three-foot brick fence topped with six feet of cyclone mesh.

I teetered on my dainty shoes as virile young Bob muscled his way effortlessly over the fence. I gazed down at my skirt and my footwear. I gazed skywards and knew then that God was a man.

Determined to prove I was as good as any man, I strode on. I hitched my skirt slightly waistwards, and the brick part of the fence proved no match for me at all. Now, however, the fun began. I started to climb the mesh. The vehicles on South Road began to slow down. The drivers began to gawk. The horns started to beep. I made

it to the top and hitched the skirt up a little higher. The cars stopped. Who can blame them? How often does one see a blonde policewoman sitting on a fence with her skirt around her ears? I tried to continue and begin my descent on the other side. I didn't get very far. I was stuck. (Mercifully, my skirt was covering my face so no one could see how embarrassed I was!) I tugged a bit harder, but I wasn't going anywhere.

I could see dear Bob hesitating. Should he go catch the crooks or rescue this dingbat stuck on the fence? I knew Bob. He was kind, thoughtful, chivalrous, and cute. I arranged an appropriate thank-you in my head.

He chased the crooks!

My face flaming, my nether regions exposed, the car horns blaring, the offers of marriage, money, and good times coming thick and fast, I made one last effort and fell in a crumpled heap on the crooks' side of the fence. The only trouble was that part of my skirt, panty hose, and knickers stayed with the fence, waving like a banner in the breeze to the milling crowd. I arose with what dignity I had left and teetered after dear Bob and the crooks.

My story is humorous, but other women's stories from that time often were not. Gradually the women were assimilated into the police force and no longer had to endure novelty value. I tell you what, though—I never wore a skirt for patrol work again. And the crooks? It was a false alarm.



Merry Christmas!

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Equipment Accessibility and Officer Survival



by James Dalweg

Now that winter is upon us, we are going to look into the topic of equipment accessibility. The objective, as it were, can be summed up simply as: preparedness, which according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary translates; (readiness, especially of preparations for possible hostilities.)

How prepared are you to deal with any situation that may arise? Let's take a look...

It's after midnight, winter, the temperature is just a few clicks above freezing. You're patrolling a main highway in your jurisdiction. Traffic is moderate to heavy. You've stopped a motor vehicle for high speed driving in an erratic manner. You exit your scout car.

Now imagine yourself wrestling with an extremely agitated individual you've just arrested for impaired driving and assault. Your citizen is 5'11" tall and a solid 190 pounds and isn't too impressed with your 'opinion' of his ability to operate a motor vehicle. The fight is on.

The citizen is trying his best to push you into oncoming traffic, the struggle continues to the hood of the scout car. Fortunately, he hits

the hood first, stomach down. With a considerable amount of effort you manage to somehow apply a double arm lock but he's still struggling. *This guy's not feeling any pain.* He continues to fight. He's tense, coiled and ready to break away the moment you provide an opening. Suddenly you get a bright idea! Time for handcuffs.....*Hello... Hello... handcuffs!* The damn handcuffs are in their pouch on the back of the belt, which is under the jacket, which is done up... Not a particularly inspired beginning, but let's continue it a step further.

A third party becomes involved. *Where the hell did this guy come from?* As soon as the altercation started with the driver all thoughts of the vehicle vanished. *Are there any more in there?* The second citizen who approaches you is your physical twin and you're still tied up with the driver.

Common sense and basic academy training tells you that you call for back up at the first hint of trouble. Especially when you're alone. In this case the night was going by quietly and you slipped into 'relax mode'. Now you're thinking 'three's definitely a crowd' call for back up. Correct? Isn't that one of the primary reasons

for carrying a portable radio.....*Hello... Hello... radio!*

Your head keeps snapping over from bad guy number one, who is really not appreciating the flavour of the paint on your scout car hood, to the potential bad guy number two who keeps getting closer and closer. Suddenly your eyes lock in on the portable radio. But it's not in your jacket pocket or on your belt—it's staring at you from between the seats on the other side of the windshield—inside the scout car. (Having a good day officer?)

As stupid as I was to get myself into this situation I was very fortunate to have a couple of advantages. Number one: Physical size. I'm 6'3" and weigh 240 pounds. In this case I was stronger than the antagonist, and was able to eventually overwhelm him. There was nothing graceful nor skilful about it. As we all know, physical size does not always mean superior strength. Number two: I was able to tie up the arms and hamper his ability to successfully fight back. (This is good.) Number three: I was lucky to have a citizen drive by with a cellular phone who called in the cavalry.

Lesson learned

When you have your non-compliant accused physically restrained, you'll now want to apply the cuffs. This stage is important. (critical?) If you have to let go of an arm or a head etc. with one of your arms to search for cuffs, you are giving up as much as fifty percent of your control. This of course depends on what type of control technique or take-down manoeuvre employed. Compound the problem by adding a third party, your attention is now being divided by going to the accused, (where are my cuffs) over to the third party. You're putting yourself into a potentially dangerous position. (This is not good).

So now I keep my cuffs in my front pocket when wearing a jacket. The same goes for my speedloaders but that's another article.

Another reason for having your portable radio with you, especially at night; is the very real possibility of being struck by a car 'fail to remain' style. You could be seriously injured and unable to return to your scout car to use the radio. It could be minutes or longer before another motorist passes by and stops. Depending on where you work in Canada, it could be minutes or hours before you're found by fellow officers.... *Did you even bother to advise your dispatch of your location?*

For an officer to become proficient at anything they must practice. This is especially true of defensive tactics and firearms. It is of little consequence if you can perfect your technique in the sterile conditions of most classrooms and police ranges; then suit up into heavy duty winter uniform and hit the road where something happens and you fail to respond as planned.

Don't get me wrong on this. Practice is vital. But the old saying 'Practice makes perfect' just doesn't cut it any more. The statement 'Perfect practice makes perfect' is more in line with the requirements of today.

Hypothermia

by Kathryn Lyburner

The condition when your body's temperature drops below 37°C is called hypothermia. You can get it by being out in cold weather for a period of time without proper clothing on, by pressing against a cold object, or by being in cold water. This cooling is very slow unless all your protective clothing is soaked, there is a fast temperature decrease or you are immersed in cold water.

There are many ways to tell if you or another person is suffering from hypothermia;

- 1.) blue lips and finger nails
- 2.) uncontrollable shaking
- 3.) numbness
- 4.) inability to think properly.

The following chart tells you what happens to your body as your body temperature drops.

37°C-36°C—Normal temperature range, shivering may start.

36°C-35°C—Cold sensation, goose bumps, can't do easy tasks with hands, shivering mild to severe, numb skin.

34°C-32°C—Shivering intense, muscle un-coordination becomes apparent, slow movement, stumbling, mild confusion, can't walk properly.

32°C-30°C—Shivering stops, exposed skin turns blue or puffy, no muscle coordination, can't walk, confusion, incoherent, irrational.

30°C-27.7°C—Rigid muscles, semiconscious, stupor, pulse and respiration slows, pupils dilate.

27°C-25.5°C—Unconscious, heart beat and respiration erratic, pulse and heart beat may be faint, muscle tendon reflexes cease.

25°C-24°C—Failure of cardiac and respiratory centers, probable death but death may occur before this.

What you can do to replace lost heat, other than the medical prescription of one litre of heated intravenous (43.3°C), is place the victim in an environment of humidified heated air, heat replacement by radiation, (e.g.: fires) warm clothes, warm liquids or "sandwiching." Sandwiching is when you place the victim in a

sleeping bag next to a fire with wet clothes removed. You place one person on both sides of the victim without their clothes on and place more blankets around them.

If you are in cold water by yourself, tuck your legs up to your chest and draw your arms around your legs, with your head bent. This is called the "HELP" position (Heat Escape Lessening Position). If more than one person, group together in a circle with your arms around each other and your legs drawn up. These are both the most effective when wearing a PFD (Personal Flotation Device).

WARNING: Do not give coffee or alcohol. Do not place victim in a shower or bath. Do not rub or move the limbs. Do not use cold treatments. **Remember**—victims often remember what was said and done.



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PARTNERS in SAFETY



Photos by Pat Robinson

Shown sorting personal body armour donated through the Partners In Safety program are (L-R) Dave Flynn, Ron Crouch, Tim Knight, Loxley Colquhoun and Lance Naismith. In spite of British Government complaints of meddling, the grass-roots program is more popular than ever. The donation by Durham Regional Police is the largest single donation to date — but more are scheduled to go out this month.

by Pat Robinson

On November 19, 1996, Sergeant Mark Saxon and a group of volunteers from the Heathrow Police Station anxiously awaited the arrival of Canadian Airlines Flight 86 from Toronto to Heathrow Airport in London. On board were 247 units of personal body armour that had been donated through the Partners in Safety Program by the Durham Regional Police Service in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada to the police officers of the United Kingdom.

The personal body armour was collected upon the arrival of the flight by the volunteers and immediately distributed to some of the more than 5,000 U.K. officers who had placed their names on a waiting list.

Only ten hours earlier, Metro Toronto Police Staff Sergeant Lance Naismith and Constable Tim Knight of the Durham Regional Police

Service, who had coordinated the largest single shipment of donated vests yet, had transported the vests to the Canadian Airlines Cargo area, and finished the last leg of their part of the effort to ship the vests to the U.K. in an effort to save the lives of British police officers.

The paperwork complete, a letter from the Chief of Police of Durham Regional was enclosed wishing the officers receiving the vests well, and the twenty-four boxes of vests were containerized and sent across the Atlantic.

It had been a long journey for the vests. When the Durham Regional Police Service incorporated a "mandatory wear" regulation for ballistic vests in 1995, all vests for all officers were replaced with a new, lighter and more comfortable product. The original vests became surplus. They languished in the police property bureau for some time, until Cst. Knight became aware of the Partners In Safety Program through the Internet. He then began working to send them overseas.

Partners In Safety is a program which was

launched through the Internet two years ago. Jim McNulty, an officer in Strathclyde, Scotland was a member of a police forum on Compuserve, where it is customary to post messages when an officer is killed on duty so that others may send condolences.

Officer McNulty found himself posting news of the death of one U.K. officer from a gunshot wound and the shooting of two others within two weeks of each other. Members of the group in the United States wanted to know why the officers weren't wearing their ballistic vests. It was then that Jim McNulty explained that vests were not issued by police services in the United Kingdom and the purchase price was equivalent to one month's salary for a police officer.

An officer on the police forum in Las Vegas, Nevada, Dennis Cobb, was so moved by McNulty's news that he shipped his own vest to him, as a gift. He then posted a message encouraging other officers to do the same. The Partners In Safety Program was born.

To date, over 3,000 surplus ballistic vests have been donated by police organizations and individual officers in the United States and Canada. The Partners In Safety Program has already recorded "saves" of officers wearing donated vests. The vests are widely distributed throughout the United Kingdom, and are usually not all assigned to one department. While most police agencies in the United States and Canada replace their vests after the manufacturer's recommended 5-year wear date, the vests have been proven in recent tests to still retain their protection level for many years if they have been properly cared for.

More police officers have died on duty in Metropolitan London between 1991 and 1995 than were killed on duty in New York City. Officer Jim McNulty says that when an officer is killed on duty, his first reaction is to check and make sure he or she is not on the waiting list for a Partners In Safety vest. He adds that he doesn't know how he could cope if he had promised a vest, but not delivered one yet.

The vast majority of the deaths have been from gunshot wounds. As more officers in the U.K. become aware of the Partners In Safety Program, more names are added to the waiting list for a surplus vest. Jim McNulty states that the vests give the officers a chance that they don't have now, noting that the ballistic properties of a white cotton shirt are fairly well known.

The vests are sent as "gifts", and cleared through Customs as donations from one officer to another. Officers receiving the vests in the U.K. sign a waiver, absolving the donating officer and department of any responsibility associated to the vest, and acknowledging them as a gift in the spirit which they were sent.

In the interest of officer safety the world over, airlines such as Virgin Air and Canadian Air Lines have assisted in the shipping of the vests since the inception of the program. All coordinators of the program throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom are volunteers who believe that the vests can help save lives—one officer at a time.

In Durham Region, Cst Tim Knight first contacted Paul Cook of British Columbia, who is the Canadian Coordinator for Partners in Safety. He was put in touch with S/Sgt Naismith, who has been the Ontario Coordinator for the past year and a half. The surplus vests from Durham Region had already been separated into boxes of carriers and boxes of panels. Cst Knight enlisted the help of police service volunteers to sort and make up vests out of the surplus parts.

One entire day was spent in the Durham Region Police property bureau sorting vest panels and carriers into sizes and then assembling them into wearable vests for their colleagues overseas. S/Sgt Naismith was with Knight every step of the way. When the Durham Region Police Services Board gave their consent for the vests to be sent to the U.K. S/Sgt Naismith made the arrangements.

Other police agencies in Canada which donated vests include Edmonton, North Bay, Elliott Lake and Metro Toronto. On December 3, 1996, a shipment of vests will leave Vancou-

ver airport compliments of Delta Municipal Police, New Westminster Police and Abbotsford Police.

The Partners In Safety Program has had its challenges and acceptance pains, but the intent of the officers on this side of the Atlantic is to provide a level of safety for their British colleagues which is comparable to the level of safety which is enjoyed here.

The officers here recognize the threats which are present and the potential for meeting life-threatening situations with every call. It is no different in Britain than it is here. Each vest that is sent is a potential life-saver. As Jim McNulty says, "There can be no finer tribute to the fallen officers of both countries, than this tangible gift of safety from one officer to another."

The Partners In Safety Program is committed to continuing the effort to provide this vital equipment to all officers who wish to receive a vest.



Pat Robinson is not only the Internal Communications Officer of the Durham Regional Police Service but also the wife of a police officer. When sending off her husband's armour she included a personal note to the officer receiving it. Blue Line will be following this armour across the Atlantic and report back in a future edition about the officer receiving it and his / her commentary.



Photo by Tina Coleman

"Hands across the Borders" was the theme of the June 29th meeting at the Washington / British Columbia Peace Arch as the United States and Canada Coordinators of "Partners in Safety" met with the British Coordinators for a press release. Shown above are (L-R) Paul Briggs - Abbotsford B.C., Bob Kegel - Aberdeen WA, Insp. Dick Coleman - Bedfordshire UK, Bob Eden - K9 BC, Paul Cook - Canadian Coordinator, and Larry Burden (RCMP). Anyone wishing to donate a vest can call:—

Paul Cook
Canadian Coordinator
604 937-0721
E-mail: 73207.3470@compuserve.com

Lance Naismith
Ontario Coordinator
416 235-7955
E-mail: 73670.2007@compuserve.com

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Unintentional Discharge of Police Weapons

by Edward J. Tully

Part 1



Photo - SlugMaster

Law enforcement officers have a lot to worry about! They have the usual worries about the potential consequences of their split-second decisions on the job that are, as we know, usually judged with 20/20 hindsight. They are concerned about their contacts with people who are mentally deranged, drunk, high on drugs, or overly contentious. Highspeed chases give us an adrenaline rush and an accompanying anger that needs to be under tight control. Occasionally, they have to worry about clever people who want us to help them commit suicide, which is their devious way to have us shoulder the blame. There are also those people who hate the police and look for reasons to cause us grief. Finally, they are concerned with all of the problems they have with the criminal element in our society. Their plate runneth over!

Well they now have another problem to add to the plate. With the ongoing transition of law enforcement agencies from the revolver to the semiautomatic pistol, there has been a significant and serious increase in the number of instances in which the semiautomatic weapon was either unintentionally or accidentally discharged. In most cases, the discharge has caused no harm. In others, however, friends, suspects, bystanders, or officers have been killed or seriously injured. In all instances of an unintentional/accidental discharge of a police weapon, the potential exists for serious injury or death. It really boils down to a matter of luck.

It is fair to say that semiautomatic pistols used in police service do not go off by themselves. They are well designed, manufactured to very high standards, and if used as intended, quite safe. If manufacturers experience a problem with newly designed models, the problems are usually corrected by the manufacturer as soon as they are discovered and as quickly as possible. Regardless of the weapon design,

however, virtually all accidental and unintentional discharges will need help from human hands. Unfortunately, some semiautomatic weapons need very little help to discharge.

I am not an expert in the area of firearms, but I am a user. I think I would be typical of most users of firearms in that I do not have the interest to become highly proficient or knowledgeable in the use of firearms. Under these conditions, a firearms expert should supply an individual in law enforcement with my ability, a weapon that is reliable, simple to use, and not beyond their ability to use properly. What follows in this article is my opinion or the opinion of several experts I contacted about the problem of semiautomatic weapons which are too easily discharged. I would strongly urge each reader to discuss the characteristics of each weapon they carry with a qualified firearms instructor or a firearms expert before drawing any conclusions.

Some firearms experts would argue that the dangers of human mistakes in handling semiautomatics is something that can be rectified by proper training. One example would be to draw the weapon without the trigger finger on the trigger. Some firearms trainers and manufacturer representatives say, "Firearms safety is a training issue, not a gun issue. If you train your people to keep their fingers off the trigger, they do it." This argument has merit in terms of handling firearms in a controlled environment, such as the firearms range. It may have some merit when applied to recruit training, or in training an individual without any prior firearms experience. It may have some merit for those officers who are firearms instructors or SWAT team members who are lucky enough to fire several thousand rounds a year. But I am not convinced by this particular argument when an average officer is involved in a combat situa-

tion, suddenly startled, thrown off balance, or flush with adrenaline. The argument assumes, incorrectly in my opinion, that law enforcement officers are given regular and consistent firearms training. Unfortunately, most law enforcement officers in the United States and Canada do not receive adequate firearms training beyond recruit training. I think the recent history of accidental/unintentional discharges of semiautomatic weapons by police officers, unfortunate as it is, supports my contention that training alone will not overcome the problem of oversensitive semiautomatic weapons. Furthermore, a lack of firearms training on the part of most officers makes safety a gun issue, not a training issue.

To better understand these issues, I reviewed the relevant literature and discussed the problems with individuals familiar with firearms matters. In particular, I talked with Don Bassett, a distinguished firearms instructor at the FBI Academy for a number of years prior to his recent retirement. Other sources of information included Dr. Roger Enoka, a kinesiologist (the study of human movement) and respected member of the staff of the Cleveland Clinic; John Hall, former Chief of the Firearms Training Unit at the FBI Academy and other experienced firearms instructors.

The Problem

The following are summaries of cases in the last five years of unintentional discharge of semiautomatic pistols gleaned from a search of LEXUS/NEXUS.

In May 1996, a three-year-old child of police officers was killed in Washington, D. C., while playing with her father's semiautomatic weapon. This was the second child to have accidentally killed himself in the District in the last few years.

In January 1996, a Seattle officer killed a suspect when his weapon accidentally discharged.

In February 1996, a member of the West Hartford tactical response team shot one of his team members when he tightened his grip on a suspect with his left hand and his right hand tightened on his pistol. This was the third accidental discharge in West Hartford in the past eighteen months.

In December 1995, a Salt Lake officer seriously injured a suspect when his weapon discharged as the cruiser door hit his gun hand.

In March 1995, a New York teenager was killed when an officer's gun discharged during a struggle. Earlier in the year, the New York Police Department also experienced six other accidental discharges in which three officers carrying the weapons were injured.

Also in June 1995, a Willingboro, Pennsylvania, police officer shot himself in the hand, and a Philadelphia officer shot himself in the leg after their weapons accidentally discharged.

In February 1995, in Patterson, New Jersey,

a Housing Authority officer accidentally killed a teenager during a struggle in a drug bust.

In 1993, Constable Daniel Johnson, Niagara Region Police, Canada, accidentally shot and killed his friend, Officer Jeffrey Paolozzi. In May 1995, a Detroit police officer shot himself in the leg re-holstering his pistol.

In June 1994, a Boston officer was slightly injured when his semiautomatic discharged accidentally. In 1993, another Boston officer was killed when his weapon discharged while he was cleaning it.

In March 1993, a Jackson, Mississippi, officer was shot in the head when his roommate's weapon discharged during cleaning.

From a review of the above cases, and credible reports indicating that those departments that have switched to newer weapons have had instances of semiautomatic weapon accidental discharges, it is reasonable to conclude the transition from revolvers to pistols has not been without serious and significant problems.

Causes

It would appear that there are four major causes of unintentional discharge of semiautomatic weapons. These causes are human carelessness, poor weapon design for police purposes, involuntary muscular movements that occur in struggles with subjects—a sudden loss of balance or being startled—and most importantly, the officer's lack of familiarity with the weapon as a result of too little training.

Carelessness

Of all the human frailties, the one that is most infuriating to me is carelessness. This is particularly so with individuals who are careless with firearms. What makes firearms carelessness so galling is that the safe handling of firearms is simple. There are just a few rules to learn and steadfastly follow. First, never assume any weapon is empty when you handle or clean it! Second, never point the weapon at something you do not wish to kill. Third, be serious-minded when handling a weapon, and never, never engage in any form of horseplay with a weapon. Fourth, when stored at home, the weapon should be adequately secured. Last, never tolerate a person who violates the above rules!

In addition to the above guidelines, you should also know the characteristics of each weapon you handle, or else do not handle the weapon. For example, most semiautomatics fire the first round double action, and the second round is fired single action. Trigger pull is the minimum force applied to the trigger to fire the pistol. Trigger pull is usually expressed in terms of pounds in the United States. Most semiautomatics require a first trigger pull of around 9-14 pounds for the pistol to fire; the second round is then fired with a trigger pull of five pounds or so. Newer versions of the semiautomatic pistol are now being offered in which both the first and subsequent rounds are all fired double action. Nonetheless, there are several

popular semiautomatics used in law enforcement which are double action, but have a first and subsequent trigger pull of five pounds. This is the equivalent of carrying a cocked .38 revolver on your hip. Common sense dictates that officers should use extreme care and caution at all times when handling this type of weapon.

Carelessness does not just happen. It is the result of a lackadaisical mental attitude that some people develop over the years in many things they do. All of us have this problem to some extent; it is, after all, a common human trait. However, there are certain things we do that are inherently dangerous. Such things as working with power saws, electricity, or cleaning the gutters are examples of things we must do with great care. We know that one mistake in our handling of these tools or jobs can be fatal. In the area of handling firearms and/or hunting, we must be trained, or train ourselves, to be particularly cautious. A majority of time we will react in a crisis as we are trained. If we are properly and thoroughly trained in handling firearms, we will react well. If we do not receive regular training, it is quite likely in a sudden crisis we will resort to natural instinct or previous habits. In the case of firearms use, neither carelessness nor natural instinct is in our best interests.

Weapon Design

The job of a law enforcement officer involves many rough and tumble activities. Getting in and out of cars, running and struggling with subjects and using their strength to solve a myriad of problems are just some of the activities they encounter on a daily basis. The design

of their equipment, whether it be a vest, nightstick, clothing, leather, or weapon must take these conditions into consideration. In the case of the semiautomatic weapon for law enforcement officers, it is imperative the weapon be reliable, safe to handle, accurate, and simple to operate.

All of the semiautomatics on the market today are well designed and manufactured weapons. All of the firearms companies stand behind their products, and, if shortcomings are discovered, they make the necessary corrections. There are two important criteria to understand about semiautomatic pistols. The first, of course, is trigger pull—that is the minimum force required to fire the weapon on each and every shot. The second, and of equal importance, is the length a trigger must travel under resistance before the weapon is fired. In some cases, a semiautomatic weapon with a trigger pull of 5 pounds requires that the trigger only move 1/10th of an inch. This type of weapon design is unforgiving of human error. The triggers of other semiautomatic weapons must travel anywhere from 3/8 to 3/4 inch under resistance before the weapon is fired. To my knowledge, there is no particular advantage, in terms of speed or accuracy, to a law enforcement officer having a service weapon which is so easily discharged. I would argue these semiautomatic weapons are overly sensitive.

I think it could be successfully argued that individuals who are highly trained in weapons handling and marksmanship might benefit, in terms of accuracy, from using a light trigger pull semiautomatic weapon on the range. However,

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I think the argument fails when applied to the way law enforcement officers use weapons. In their job environment, I would suggest their weapons be more forgiving of human error and rough handling. All too often law enforcement officers find themselves engaged in a variety of strenuous activities while having their weapon in their hand.

It is overly simple to say that sensitive semiautomatics should not be used in law enforcement. The fact of the matter is that this type of weapon is extensively used in law enforcement. For some officers, the problems with the sensitive semiautomatic are mitigated by extensive training or by retrofitting the weapon with a stronger trigger spring. A stronger trigger spring, per se, however, does not overcome the problem of the distance the trigger must travel to discharge the weapon.

One has to keep in mind that most officers using semiautomatic weapons do not get either regular or extensive firearms training beyond recruit training. It is also important for law enforcement officers to realize that, while the semiautomatic is a significant improvement over the revolver in terms of fire-power, accuracy, and ease of shooting, there is a downside, as well. The downside is safety—until the officer is completely familiar with the nature and characteristics of the weapon! This is not an issue which should be treated with complacency by anyone concerned with the welfare of officers, civilians, or our own children! Firearms experts who claim that sensitive semiautomatics can be made more safe through the process of extensive training, while correct for a few officers, is a significantly flawed judgment for the vast majority of officers. Unfortunately, as previously stated, these experts fail to take into consideration that most law enforcement officers in the United States and Canada do not receive adequate firearms training. This failure, in my judgment, to properly assess "real world conditions" has led to far too many tragic

consequences for those officers who were not "experts." It has also led to a plethora of liability lawsuits, civil rights investigations and, tragically, a few funerals.

At the very minimum, departments should consider retrofitting sensitive semiautomatics with a stronger trigger spring to increase the trigger pull on easily-fired semiautomatics to at least 8-12 pounds. This, however, will only partially solve the problem, as little can be done

...there are many drills regarding firearms handling that do not require the weapon to be fired.

to a weapon to modify or lessen the distance of trigger travel. Secondly, Don Bassett advises that most, if not all, departments need to increase the frequency of firearms training. It may not be necessary to increase the total number of rounds fired each year for qualifying purposes, but the frequency of training should be increased even if it means firing only 25 rounds or so. Additionally, there are many drills regarding firearms handling that do not require the weapon to be fired. Frequent and regular use of the weapon makes the user familiar with its inherent nature and characteristics, which is a critical necessity.

Involuntary Muscle Movements

Dr. Roger M. Enoka, Cleveland Clinic, is involved in studies of human movement. In a recent writing regarding the unintentional discharge of weapons, he has advised that there are no current scientific studies that address this exact issue. However, he states that recent research indicates there is no doubt that involuntary muscular contractions may account for some instances of unintentional discharge. He explains, "In general, movements (including the discharge of a firearm) are caused by muscle contractions, which are controlled by nerve cells located in the spinal cord. These nerve cells can be activated by a direct command from

the brain or by signals from sensory receptors that are distributed throughout the body. Sensory receptors are sensors that tell the nervous system how the body is doing. If something unexpected happens, sensory receptors will inform the nervous system and are able to activate the nerve cells that control muscles and thereby elicit a muscle contraction. Under these conditions, the muscle contraction occurs without involving the brain and is referred to as an involuntary muscle contraction. There are three conditions which predispose an individual to have involuntary muscle contractions which might cause the unintentional discharge of a firearm: sympathetic contraction; loss of balance; and startle reaction." Dr. Enoka explained as follows:

Sympathetic Contraction: When the muscles of one limb exert a maximum or near maximum force, such as to restrain a suspect, the same muscles in the opposite limb can be involuntarily activated by as much as 20% of their maximum capacity. The muscles are described as being activated in "sympathy," hence the term "sympathetic contraction."

Activation of the opposite limb muscles is due to neural overflow, which is a rehabilitation term that describes the associated activity in other muscles when activity is being increased in a target muscle. The neural drive provided by the brain spreads to other muscles. The amount of overflow activity is greatest when moving heavy loads and can be sufficient to discharge a weapon held in the opposite hand. For example, an officer restraining a suspect with the left hand can experience an involuntary contraction of the muscles in the right hand up to 20% of the grasping capacity of the right hand. For a 20 to 30-year-old individual who has an average maximum handgrip force of 100 pounds, this would amount to approximately 20 pounds. Further research concerning the distribution of finger forces relative to total grip strength has disclosed that 31% of the total grip strength is typically exerted by the index (trigger) finger. This would result in the trigger finger exerting a force that could exceed 6 pounds. Thus, if the officer has a finger on the trigger during the struggle, the weapon could be unintentionally discharged!

Loss of Balance: When a person is standing, a sudden disturbance that causes a loss of balance will elicit a rapid adjustment in the leg muscles to prevent the person from falling. Since this response is so rapid, it must be elicited without the involvement of the brain; that is, an involuntary response. When an individual holds onto something for support, such as a door handle or the side of a vehicle, the compensatory response is focused in the arm muscles. The result will be that the individual will grasp the object more forcefully, which may cause involuntary muscle contraction in the opposite arm and hand. Furthermore, this response may be enhanced under conditions of heightened excitability that are associated with activities such as a foot pursuit or apprehension. Again, this may produce an unintended contraction of the trigger finger muscles sufficient to produce a force of 6 pounds.

Startle Reaction: Based on earlier research

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literature in psychology, we know, says Dr. Enoka, that some stimuli (e.g., loud noise) can elicit a startle response. This response tends to be global in nature and to involve the whole body, and is generally directed toward the flexor muscles, including the finger flexor muscles (e.g., those associated with making a fist). These exceedingly rapid responses include such involuntary activities as blinking of the eye, bending at the waist, or moving the head to avoid possible injury. Because these responses are so rapid, they are not commanded by the brain. Again, if the officer's index finger is on the trigger, the weapon could be discharged without rational thought.

The implications of the observations by Dr. Enoka go a long way to explain some of the accidental/unintentional weapon discharges we have experienced. His observations need to be confirmed by additional field research to verify that sympathetic muscle contractions that occur in situations in which law enforcement officers frequently find themselves actually cause an accidental/unintentional discharge of the weapon. My sense tells me this is a distinct possibility. If this hypothesis is confirmed, then it may be possible to design training programs for officers to either control sympathetic reactions or to handle the weapon in a different manner.

Weapons Familiarity

Most law enforcement officers in the United States received their initial firearms training on the revolver. The revolver, as you know, is a relatively safe weapon, requiring a double action trigger pull and a long trigger pull distance against resistance. The revolver is also less dangerous than some semiautomatic pistols during the cleaning process. Over the past ten years as we have been involved with the transition to the automatic weapons, many of the new recruits have received training on the semiautomatic. Thus, from a trainer's perspective, we have had two types of similar—yet different—training programs. Most firearms instructors agree that teaching recruits marksmanship with a semiautomatic is easier than with the revolver and involves less time. So the time previously spent on revolver marksmanship suggests recruits will have more training time to familiarize themselves with the nature, characteristics, and safe handling of the weapon during expanded combat courses. Veteran officers also transition from the revolver to the semiautomatic easily and often with increased marksmanship. However, according to John Hall, former Chief, Firearms Training Unit, FBI Academy, the ease with which the veteran officers transition to the semiautomatic in terms of marksmanship obscures the necessity to modify the safety and shooting habits that are associated with revolver shooting with most officers (e.g., in the draw of a revolver, the trigger finger is placed upon the trigger as the weapon leaves the plane of the body and rises to meet the target). This habit, among others, according to Hall, is not compatible with using some semiautomatic pistols and needs to be modified through more training than many transition courses presently offer (8 - 24 hours).

It is recommended by some experts that when training officers who are used to the revolver on those sensitive semiautomatic pistols, the officers be taught to draw the weapon with the trigger finger outside the trigger guard. The trigger finger is only placed on the trigger when a decision has been made to fire. As you would expect, firearms experts differ on whether or not this is a proper way to handle the weapon on the street. However, from a trainer's perspective, it is very difficult to train officers experienced with revolvers to keep their trigger fingers outside the trigger guard until ready to fire. Old habits are hard to break, particularly in stressful situations. This being so, Hall advised, veteran officers should have an additional 40 hours of training with the semiautomatic to familiarize them with the "weaponscraft," a word coined by Hall to describe the art of handling weapons. It includes the nature, characteristics, and safe handling of weapons, particularly in arrest situations.

The bottom line on the subject of weapon familiarity is that it is imperative for the user of any weapon to know the weapon and to develop habits consistent with the safe use of the weapon. No individual should assume that lifetime or natural habits can be modified in a few hours of training. The extent to which these habits will interfere with the safe operation of the weapon is a question each individual must answer honestly. If more training is needed to learn safe handling habits, then it is in the best interest of each officer to get such training one way or another.

Conclusion

Being a law enforcement officer is a tough job. The job requires a great deal of self discipline, compassion, and a sense of humour. When I see the bumper sticker that says, "When life deals you lemons—make lemonade," I always laugh because it seems to catch the spirit of being a cop. There are times when it seems as if life deals us a lot of lemons, and the choice is fairly simple—whine about it or figure out how to make the best of it. In terms of having the right equipment to do their job, it seems as if law enforcement is always behind the curve. It is a problem beyond their individual ability to do much about; rather, it is a problem for which police administrators and police associations must take responsibility to rectify. In the meantime, the officer's alternative is to master the equipment they have in whatever way is necessary to get the job done. So if you are using a semiautomatic weapon on the job, now is the time to become familiar with the characteristics of the weapon. Good marksmanship is clearly not enough. Safe handling is more critically important to both you, your family, and the public. Take a few minutes and review your knowledge of the weapon and your skill level in handling it. If you find yourself coming up short then take the time and go to the expense of rectifying your shortcomings.

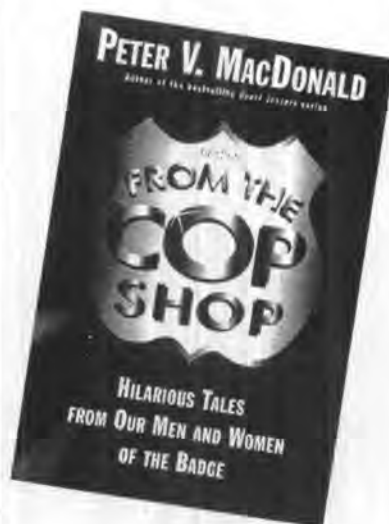
Edward J. Tully is the editor of the Beretta Leadership Bulletin. He served in law enforcement for 31 years before his retirement in 1993. He can be reached at 540-371-3084.

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**Wednesday
November 13, 1996**

Mounties get ripper lesson from mates "Down Under"

YELLOWKNIFE (CP) - They went from 40 below to 40 above, from the land of polar bears to the land of koalas, from the far North to way Down Under.

A team of Mounties from the blustery Northwest Territories returned Wednesday from a trek to northwest Australia, where they took notes on how their mates deal with policing diamond mines.

The RCMP will be faced with this task at a diamond mine that will begin production in the N.W.T. in 1998.

The Mounties are legendary for their iron grip on law and order in the Yukon during the wild days of the Klondike gold rush 100 years ago. But diamonds are a whole other billy of fish, said Staff-Sgt. Dave Grundy.

"There's no one in Canada who has any experience in policing the diamond industry, and it's an international problem," said Grundy.

"Raw diamonds are traded openly on the black market, more so than gold, so there's an element of crime that goes along with this that you need to do some research on."

Grundy and colleagues Ray Halwas and Susan Munn temporarily worked at the immense Argyle Diamond Mines in the northwest region of Australia to gain insight on what RCMP could expect when the BHP Diamonds mine opens 300 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife.

The Canadian government gave its blessing to the \$750-million project at the beginning of November.

The Aussie and Canadian mine sites are both "in the middle of nowhere," and Grundy said he expects the BHP project will have social repercussions similar to the Argyle operation.

A diamond is a criminal's best friend it seems - prostitution, drug trafficking and alcohol abuse have all been spinoffs of the industry in Australia.

Turkey Creek, an aboriginal town near the Argyle mine, has had to deal with serious social problems because of the sudden influx of money and activity into the area, Grundy said.

"I don't think we'll go off the scale with crime," he said.

"We'll get about 100 families move into Yellowknife and go up to the mine site to do business, but with that there will be the seedy type individuals who will come and try to conduct other types of business."

During his excursions to the Argyle mine, Grundy said he was strip-searched twice and was at times accompanied by

two security officers, all the while under the constant gaze of surveillance cameras.

Dan Johnson, project manager for the BHP mine, downplayed the role security would play at the operation.

Most of the process is done by machinery, so the chances a mine worker would pick up a piece of rock with a diamond in it is about one in 50 million, Johnson said.

But access to the glittering jewels will still be a consideration.

The Argyle mine recently suffered a huge loss when a corruption ring involving the head of security stole hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of the gems.

BHP Diamonds will have a search regimen, but will concentrate its efforts on minimizing the number of people in contact with the gems.

"From our perspective, some of the key people you have to watch are your watchdogs," said Johnson.

**Thursday
November 14, 1996**

Cop demoted after drugs destroyed

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. (CP) - An adjudicator has handed a veteran Sault Ste. Marie police officer what is believed to be the toughest penalty, short of dismissal, ever imposed under the police act.

Hearings officer Neil Sweeney indicated Wednesday he had trouble believing Staff Sgt. David O'Dell's account of how narcotics for which he was responsible cannot be accounted for in police exhibits.

O'Dell, 41, a 15-year veteran, pleaded guilty to charges of deceit, discreditable conduct and two counts of neglect of duty.

Sweeney ordered that he be demoted for five years. He will serve the first three years as a first-class constable and the following two as a sergeant before being re-appointed a staff sergeant.

The demotion means a loss of more than \$60,000 in salary and is a stiffer penalty than suggested in a joint submission by the prosecutor and the defence.

Sweeney said O'Dell's explanation and statement to investigators "is nothing more than a self-serving statement for this tribunal."

"He stands alone," he said, looking at O'Dell.

While the cocaine cannot be accounted for, there is no evidence that O'Dell took any of the drugs for his own use or to sell, the hearing heard.

In a five-page letter, O'Dell said that he forgot about the narcotics and notebooks in his desk. When he realized that they didn't match with paperwork, he became

frightened and flushed a 14-gram packet of cocaine down the toilet. He replaced the cocaine with baking soda before giving it and a second packet containing seven grams of cocaine to a senior officer, the letter said.

In a brief statement following the hearing, O'Dell apologized for his actions.

"For someone in my position, it is unforgivable. I'm sorry for the embarrassment it's caused the public, and especially the police service."

Police Chief Bob McEwen said criminal charges were not laid because "three experienced OPP investigators found that there was no criminal activity and certainly none could be proven."

**Friday
November 15, 1996**

Telewarrants coming to Ontario

KINCARDINE, Ont. (CP) - A new service will soon be introduced that will help reduce the red tape faced by police officers investigating a crime.

Starting early next year, police officers across the province will be able to use a fax machine to obtain search warrants 24 hours a day.

An application for a so-called "telewarrant" will be sent to a centrally located Justice of the Peace.

Currently officers must appear in person before a judge or a JP to apply for a warrant.

Kincardine OPP Const. Andy Burgess says it is a step in the right direction because it will give investigators quicker access to potential evidence.

Alberta, B.C., Manitoba, New Brunswick, Quebec and the Yukon already have telewarrant services in place.

Cop loses appeal

HALIFAX (CP) - The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal has dismissed a former Sydney Mines, N.S., police officer's appeal of his conviction for stealing money from a wallet.

Two years ago, Albert Stanley Jesty was sentenced to 10 months in jail after being found guilty of stealing more than \$1,000 from a wallet turned in to his police department.

He lost his job as a result but was granted a new trial when new evidence surfaced.

He was found guilty again, this time of the lesser offence of theft under \$1,000, and sentenced to 45 days in jail.

In the Sept. 19 appeal, the Crown

agreed that Jesty should get a new trial, saying it had erred in its cross-examination by bringing up a police statement that had not been declared admissible.

But the appeal court said the Crown had not made a mistake because Jesty himself had brought up the statement.

**Monday
November 18, 1996**

Man charged after citizen's arrest turns fatal

BURNABY, B.C. (CP) - A man is in custody charged with second-degree murder after a suspected thief died while being held in a headlock.

RCMP said Danny Suto, 29, was at his girlfriend's apartment in this Vancouver suburb when Frederick Doherty, 39, smashed the apartment window.

Suto chased him to a nearby bus loop and grappled with Doherty, who died.

Defence lawyer Vincent Michaels said Suto was asleep when his girlfriend, who had been watching a video, began screaming because a man had smashed a window.

Michaels said Suto pursued the man and "attempted to apprehend and restrain him until the police arrived."

He said police reports indicate Suto put Doherty in a headlock and urged bystanders to call the police.

Last year, the Crown decided against laying charges in the case of a male teenager who killed an intruder in a Chilliwack, B.C., home after using a chokehold.

A 24-year-old man broke into the home at a recreational vehicle park and campground and attacked the 62-year-old manager with a baseball bat.

The manager fought back and his teenaged nephew, who cannot be identified, put the masked man in a chokehold, killing him.

Last year, a jury acquitted a suburban Surrey security guard of manslaughter in the 1993 death of a man. The guard had put the 32-year-old man in a headlock during a scuffle at a condominium.

The chokehold was banned by the RCMP in 1978 because of concerns that it can be fatal. Justice Wallace Oppal also recommended a ban on chokeholds in his 1994 report on policing in British Columbia.

**Tuesday
November 19, 1996**

Mounties create graffiti zones

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) - In an effort to combat graffiti on the walls of schools and other buildings, the city and the RCMP have created graffiti-art zones.

Six locations around town will be designated "safe walls" where graffiti is welcomed.

Const. Murray MacAulay says the donated walls will provide a display for the

work of the spray-painters or "taggers."

"You have to look at it as a form of art. It gives kids somewhere to paint on the right side of the fence."

Cops cleared of framing drug dealer

TORONTO (CP) - Two Toronto police officers accused of planting crack cocaine on a suspected drug dealer have been found not guilty.

Constables Robert Coon and Paul Cargill were acquitted by a jury Tuesday of trying to obstruct justice and tampering with evidence.

They were charged with planting crack cocaine on a suspected drug dealer who was being held at a police station in October 1994.

Two other officers who pleaded guilty to similar charges in the same case last month testified that Coon and Cargill were involved.

Dynamite stolen

RIMOUSKI, Que. (CP) - An organized gang is likely behind the theft of about 700 kilograms of dynamite which was stolen from a warehouse on the weekend, police said Tuesday.

Police refused to blame Quebec's warring biker gangs, which have often used bombs in their ongoing battle to control the province's drug trade.

The 25 boxes of dynamite were stolen sometime over the weekend from Dyno Nobel, a company that sells explosives to construction firms.

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by Keith Merith —

Officers must recognize the fact that in a full blown physical confrontation they will probably get hit. Understand that fact. The difference is to what degree the hit will be at disabling the officer from defending him/herself. Although the ultimate advantage would be to disable the opponent a secondary goal could be to hold on until help arrives and with the least damage to the officer as is possible.



If officers find themselves in a poor position on the ground, the concept is to take away space. You must close the gap between you and your opponent. The reason for this is to limit the power of the strikes that might be delivered by the suspect as well as severely restricting their movements.

To take away space you need a position that will afford you to become both offensive and defensive. The position must also allow the officer to face their threat. Why? Well if you have your back to your opponent you are totally exposed. You can not see strikes coming. You pose very little threat to your opponent. Also with your back to your opponent there is limited techniques avail-

able to you and it also affords your attacker time to regroup, plan, act and deliver. Therefore the recommended position from a poor ground position is the *Guard*.

Adopting the Guard Position on the ground

The officer is flat on their back on the ground. The attacker has passed the position of safety and is attempting to mount. At this point the officer should adopt the *Guard Position* which requires them to place both legs around the outside body of the attacker. Lock them in tight. The second part to this technique is for the officer to pull the attacker as close and as tightly to him as possible attempting to lock both bodies together. This can be accomplished by the officer wrapping one or both arms around

the neck of the attacker and pulling them down.

The strongest locking position will be one arm around the neck and the other underneath your opponent's arm pit then connecting the two. This action will severely restrict the striking power and manoeuvrability of the attacker.

NEXT MONTH



Handgun retention from the Guard Position

The Rapid Rotation Baton *Operation CrimeNet*

Meeting the challenge

by Tom Conlin

Described as "the perfect hybrid of intermediate weaponry," the Rapid Rotation Baton is designed to combine the offensive benefits of the straight baton with the defensive strengths of the side-handle baton.

DESCRIPTION

At one pound, this baton is lightweight yet strong, made of a nylon type of material. It looks like the martial arts "sai" and often draws comments like "Wow, is that a sword?"

Just like the "sai", the Rapid Rotation Baton can be briskly rotated from an extended position, held by the grip for strikes and blocks, to the "shielded forearm position." Held in this manner, the long end of the baton runs along the bottom of the officer's forearm, similar to a side-handle baton grasped in the ready position. In this way, the baton can be used for blocks, chops, and jabbing strikes at the offender.

Roy Bedard, a Tallahassee, Fla., police officer and a U.S. Karate team competitor, developed the baton to restore officers' faith in impact weapons. Like Bedard, many trainers across the country feel that a solid baton delivers more impact energy than an expandible type, which has its weakest points at each of the joints. Many also believe lighter weight batons can deliver very effective disruptive strikes with less chance of breaking bones, and thus, less chance of lawsuits for officers and their agencies.

Finally, there are many law enforcement trainers who believe that straight batons lose less power at contact than side-handle batons because straight batons will not "give," where a side-handle grip will twist in the user's hand. The Rapid Rotation Baton has all of these qualities, and Bedard states that several Florida agencies are now carrying the baton and report favourable results with it.

TESTING AND EVALUATION

I carried and tested the baton for some time and found the weapon easy to use. In numerous sessions with the heavy bag, I realized that I could hit with the Rapid Rotation Baton at least as hard as with a side-handle, possibly harder.

The light weight and design of this baton make it easy to perform multiple strikes very quickly.

Though the Rapid Rotation Baton is easy to wield and manoeuvre, to fully appreciate its many uses, the inventor strongly recommends course training.

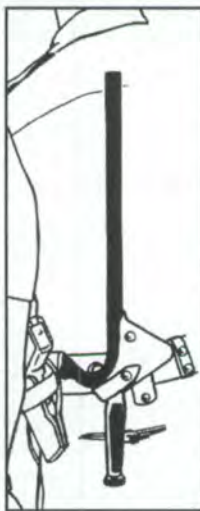
In "pre-basic" introductory classes, officers learn very quickly how to rapidly rotate the baton from one position to the other. The movements are very natural and easy to learn, at least as easy as learning how to spin a side-handle baton. Officers also learn how to holster and draw the weapon, which is carried on the strong side behind the officer's back.

The carry method looks a bit unusual, with the long end pointing up the back toward the

wearer's head, while the grip is pointed down toward the ground. The carry style, though, is very comfortable and I found that the baton really becomes part of the uniform. This is no swinging, clanking, noisy baton in a ring. And once officers put it on, the baton stays with them instead of in the squad car, where batons are known to be pretty useless. Many motor officers and bicycle cops especially like the way it wears.

While the RRB can be used quite well as a control device for armlocks and come-alongs, as can other types of batons, the true purpose of an impact tool is to hit and disrupt an offender immediately. The Rapid Rotation Baton clearly meets this challenge.

For further information contact L.E.O. Products at 1-800-848-8155.



A computer system that gives a lead in solving crimes by advising detectives who might be the culprits and who they should question is currently on trial with four UK police authorities.

Crimenet has been developed by the Police Foundation in cooperation with British Aerospace. It matches film from closed-circuit television cameras at the scenes of crime with a data bank of criminal "mugshots" and material gathered by undercover intelligence. The system makes use of the vast amount of film taken by surveillance cameras which hitherto has been wasted. It also removes the time-consuming work the police have to undertake in trying to match images on film with their own criminal records.

In its matching operation Crimenet turns the criminals' features into a geometric computer code which is stored in the database. Film from the security cameras are also turned into code enabling the computer to sift the two sets of details for a match.

Faces and histories of criminals are considered by the computer before it makes its suggestions together with intelligence on how the decision has been reached. By identifying suspects and eliminating others, Crimenet gives investigators a head start.

For details contact Dr. Barrie Irving at 011 44 171 582-3744 Fax 011 44 171 587-2671.

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Up-Coming Events

January 21 - 25, 1997

10th ASLET International Training Seminar & Expo Buffalo - New York

Law Enforcement agencies in the greater Buffalo region will be hosting this year's seminars of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers at the Buffalo Convention Center. For further information call 716 855-5555 Fax 716 855-3158.

January 26 - 31, 1997

Canadian Police Alpine Games Kelowna - British Columbia

The Canadian Organization of Police Skiers is the host for the 11th Canadian Police Alpine Games. This event is designed for law enforcement personnel from around the world. The week long event is designed to be a fun race for all levels of skiers. For further information contact Jerome

Malysh at 604 264-2371 Fax 604 264-2971.

March 3 - 7, 1997

Sexual Assault Investigators Seminar

Toronto - Ontario

The Metro Toronto Police, Sexual Assault Squad is hosting this seminar at the Colony Hotel in Toronto. The 5 day seminar will deal with many aspects of sexual assault investigation and focus on victim management and interviewing techniques, giving the investigative practitioner invaluable knowledge which will enhance their investigative skills. For further details and a complete program contact Ruth Schueller or Marie Drummond at 416-808-7474 or Internet Email at MTPsas@interlog.com.

April 15 - 18, 1997

First Nations Police Association Annual Conference

Geneva Park, Ontario

This meeting is open to all First Nation Association Members as well as any non-members who may have an interest in becoming a member. If you are a non member and wish to become a member you may do so by contacting Acting President Doug Sewell at Fax 705-759-9171 or mail to 236 Frontenac St., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5K9.

April 22-23, 1997

BLUE LINE MAGAZINE Response 97

Markham - Ontario

Canada's first international trade show directed specifically at those involved in law enforcement. This is an opportunity to check out the latest products and services available in an atmosphere designed to encourage both understanding and acquisition of the goods and services law enforcement practitioners require. For further information contact Blue Line Magazine at 905 640-3048 or Fax 905 640-7547 for a media kit.

April 27 - 30, 1997

1997 Canadian Society for Industrial Security Conference & Exhibits

Toronto - Ontario

The Canadian Society of Industrial Security will be holding their 1997 annual conference at the Toronto Hilton Hotel. The theme of the conference is "Securing the Global Village". For registration information: 613 738-1744, 1-800-461-7748 or Fax 613 738-1920.

May 25 - 28, 1997

24th Annual Canadian Association of Police Educators Conference & Workshop

Oshawa, Ontario
The Durham Regional Police and Durham College will be hosts of this year's conference and workshops situated on the campus of Durham College in Oshawa. Subjects will include methods of improving learning program design and delivery. For further information contact Alan Mack 905 579-1520 ext. 4440 or Heather Dwyer 905 721-3111 ext. 2242.

June 27 - July 4, 1997

The World Police & Fire Games

Calgary, Alberta
Calgary is the site for this prestig-

ious international event in 1997. Organizers anticipate from 8 to 10,000 athletes from police and fire departments from around the world will register for this event. In addition to the games a health and fitness conference will take place along with a trade show. Other events and social activities are also planned through the course of the events. Events are open to any employed or retired police officer or firefighter and they may register by writing to 270 144-4 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB or through the Internet at —
www.WPFGCalgary97.ucalgary.ca

June 23 - 25, 1997

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Conference & Trade Show London - Ontario

The London Police will be hosting this year's annual conference and Trade Show of the OACP. For further details Ph: 519 661-5670 or Fax 519 645-1908.

August 23 - 27, 1997

92 Annual CACP Conference and Exhibition

Fredericton, New Brunswick

The Fredericton Police will be the hosts of this year's conference and exhibition, which will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Fredericton. For further details contact Tim Kelly at 506 452-9701 or Fax 506 452-0713.


November 8 - 13, 1997

I.A.W.P. 1997 Training Conference

Dallas, Texas
The International Association of Women Police will hold the 1997 Training Conference in Dallas, Texas. The conference will be hosted by the Dallas Police Department. For further information contact IAWP '97 Conference, PO Box 797784, Dallas, TX 75379.

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A Gathering of Guardians

(An open letter to law enforcement officers)

by Roy Kennedy

There was a large joyless gathering. It was not the first such gathering. It will not, unfortunately be the last. Yet another Guardian, Educator, Healer, Mediator, Warrior, was laid to rest; Someday there may be a gathering for the joyful purpose of celebration; NOT needing to have had a gathering.

Recently I attended the funeral of a murdered law enforcement officer. I, as others, misty-eyed and silent, marched and stood in closed ranks. As others, I stood shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of colleagues and civilian mourners alike.

Now, in reflection of emotions I experienced during the service, I am conscious of a deep sense of personal loss, though I had never met the officer nor heard the name before this day. I feel a sense of betrayal and of being betrayed by a sudden, senseless act of total brutality.

Continuously during the service, I felt anger, sorrow, sympathy, fear, frustration, confusion, commitment and camaraderie. Yes, certainly these.

Acceptance? NO! Definitely, NO!!!! We should not resign ourselves to passively accept casualties as a professional norm.

Again in my mind's eye, I scan a sea of haggard faces and in so, observe no talisman to ward off death. No magic aura to protect life, no indication of possible divine intervention on behalf of anyone present.

Yet what I observed in conjunction with comments, reflected a mass acceptance of a Law Enforcement Lottery. A Lottery where DEATH is the LUCK of the DRAW. Comments such as these, reflect this acceptance.

- "We have all been lucky lately." (Acceptance)
- "These things have to happen sometime." (Acceptance)
- "You can't help it. You just get COMPLACENT." (Acceptance)

Well I say NO! It does not have to BE. We do not have to buy into this "LOTTERY."

Having been an actively involved officer safety/force option's instructor since 1985, I have passionate feelings, some say obsession, about officer survival issues. As I participated in this officer's funeral, there were questions and doubts. Had we failed this member? Had this member failed us? What could be changed? What should be reinforced? Where to begin? What message should be sent? How may we send it? The unpredictable character of our profession necessitates the need for officer safety trainers. These educators must be permitted and prepared to deliver realistic, effective and regular training sessions. Obviously, the training curriculums and materials should be reviewed and updated periodically.

Administrators, supervisors, trainers, and individual members must initiate and maintain a trend of delivering timely practical training sessions, prior to catastrophic events rather than because of them. Hindsight is not the most appropriate vehicle to deliver the message of officer safety within our profession. We must also expunge the acceptance of these horrific events as inevitable, predestined or inescap-

able; while promoting a philosophy of control over one's destiny.

As I stood at parade rest contemplating what little I knew of this officer's tragic murder, I asked myself, was there one thing I could have done or did not do which would have kept safe this individual officer. Instantly, I recognized my arrogance and immediately experienced a penetrating sadness that I could not personally and positively influence officers everywhere. My thoughts continued and I wondered, could I have done something, anything, which may indirectly have assisted this officer's administrator, supervisor, trainer or partner prepare for the life threatening situations common to our occupation? Perhaps, yes. Within my own hindsight, I perceive one act which might have accomplished this objective. Write a letter in the hopes they would publish it in law enforcement magazines, as well as, address it in as many law enforcement training seminars as possible. With the well being of law enforcement members foremost in mind, and with almost naive hope I appeal to administrators, supervisors, trainers, individual members, unions, editors and supply companies to communicate and promote a simple, explicit message of awareness.

WORK SAFELY! REMAIN ALERT!

Officers have been killed doing your job!!!

We must ALL nag, pester, cajole, coax, prod and remind one another to constantly

observe safety basics. Set a proper example for each other. I watch you. You watch me. Be sure we do it right! Remain tactical, "not" paranoid. Partners, squads, teams, debrief responses to situations, reinforce cover, visual scanning, verbalization, cuffing, searching, using protective gear, awaiting backup (where available) and practice.

Let us together expose complacency and do our individual and collective best to keep safe members everywhere. Team members, persons involved in martial arts and those in certain other organizations routinely observe, correct, assess and assist other members to achieve their optimum performance. Can we do less? Surely NOT. Is it realistic to believe we can save every member in every situation everywhere? Probably not?

Should we do our united best to accomplish this goal? Definitely, yes! We (you, me/us) must continuously address the issues of safety, reject complacency and strive toward an ultimate goal; to someday hold a gathering simply because we have not had to have a gathering.

**Dedicated to the memory of
Derek Cameron Burkholder**

Cst. Roy Kennedy is a 22-year member of the Halifax Regional Police Service of Nova Scotia. He is the Behavioural Control instructor within the training unit of the Halifax Regional Police Service and Master instructor for the Province of Nova Scotia.

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In The Line of Duty

Edmonton Police Service

Compiled by Blair McQuillan

Illustrated by Stefan Sepa

This series was compiled by Blue Line Magazine and is intended to tell the stories of police officers killed in the line of duty. The initial articles will involve the first officers killed in the line of duty from each of the major police forces across Canada.

Reproduced from "The First 100 Years - A History of the Edmonton Police Service"



November 11, 1918, saw the Armistice signed in Europe, and World War I came to an end. As the world returned to normal, Edmonton turned to deal with its post war problems, and one of the first of them was the murder of an Edmonton police officer in the line of duty.

The first report came in the form of a telephone call at 3:00 a.m. August 30th, 1919. George Scott, a patron in a cafe on 101 Street near 104 Avenue, heard shots and telephoned the police. When the officers responded to Scott's call, they found Constable William Nixon unconscious with a bullet wound in his left side.

Constable Nixon had made his routine check-in from the call box on 101 Street minutes earlier.

Questioned later that morning at the hospital, the wounded officer was able to explain what had happened. After he'd placed his call from the box, he had noticed a man standing outside the Twin City Transfer Company.

On being questioned, the man drew a revolver, fired at Nixon, and ran west on 104th Avenue. The wounded officer was able to draw his revolver and fired the standard distress signal, three rapid shots.

These shots had been heard by the patrons in the cafe, they investigated, and Scott had placed his call to Headquarters.

Nixon was an experienced officer. He had served with the Edmonton Police Department before World War I, had enlisted early in the war, and had returned to the Police Department after his discharge. He had been back on the job for four months the night he was shot.

Nixon was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital and by 4:00 that morning was listed as being in critical condition. He died at 6:50 the following Sunday morning, August 31. He was 29-years-old and unmarried.

A coroner's verdict on September 1 brought in a verdict of death at hands of persons unknown.

The investigation of Nixon's murder continued and the prime suspect was John Gundard Larson. Larson had recently been released from prison after serving a three year term for forgery. Victims of a series of hold-ups in Edmonton identified Larson's photograph, and Larson's description fitted that of the man described by Constable Nixon as his assailant.

Police officers discovered that Larson had purchased a ticket to Mountain Park, a coal mining community which is now a ghost town south of Cadomin in Alberta's Coal Branch. He had left Edmonton on the 10:30 p.m. Grand



Constable William Nixon

Trunk Pacific train on Sunday, August 31.

Chief Hill and his officers felt that speed was important in the arrest of Larson so they employed a tactic which had never before been tried by a police department in Canada and possibly North America. They used an airplane in pursuit of a criminal.

Chief Hill is credited with the idea of using the plane. "Wop" May and his brother Court were approached to see if a Curtis Jenny by the name of the "City Of Edmonton," could be used to get to Edson in a hurry. The May brothers were agreeable to the idea, but their airplane had just arrived in Edmonton the night before on a freight train from Saskatchewan, and was still in pieces. Every available mechanic went to work on the machine, and "Wop" May and Detective James Campbell were able to take off from Edmonton at 3:30 p.m., September 2, 1919.

If you're curious about the plane itself, the machine "Wop" May and Detective Campbell used can be seen overhead when entering the front door of Edmonton's Convention Centre.

There had been a report of gunfire in the community of Gainford, just west of Edmonton, and May and Campbell thought they'd check it out. There was no place to land at Gainford and it was just as well. The report was valid, but it had no connection with Larson.

This was 1919, and there were no airfields west of Edmonton. At Edson "Wop" May landed the plane on a small grassy area between the telegraph wires and a gully close to the railroad station. Campbell sent a telegram to Chief Hill back in Edmonton, letting him know of their safe arrival. Hill wired back, directing them to carry on to Mountain Park.

After asking some of the Edson people about landing conditions in the Mountain Park area, it was obvious that Campbell was on his own.

The terrain was just too heavily wooded for any kind of a landing, so Campbell headed for Mountain Park by train, and "Wop" May had to

take off from the main street in Edson to return to Edmonton. He fought head winds on his trip back, ran out of gas, made a forced landing at Wabamun, refuelled and finally returned to the city.

Detective Campbell made it to Mountain Park and arrested the suspect, I. G. Larson, at the Cadomin Collieries. Campbell wired the Chief in Edmonton, advising him of the arrest, and telling him that they'd be heading back to Edmonton the following day.

About 7:30 on Thursday evening, September 4, Campbell and Constable McElroy of the Provincial Police, along with their handcuffed prisoner, were travelling to Edson on a track car at high speed. They were coming down a steep grade, still at high speed, when the handcuffed Larson rolled to one side and threw himself over the edge of the speeder.

Before Campbell and McElroy could get the track car stopped, Larson had disappeared into the bush.

It was cold, raining, and a long night for Campbell. He wired the Chief, telling him his prisoner had escaped, and then organized a search in an attempt to recapture him.

Larson was cold and wet too, which probably affected his decision to find some form of shelter.

Steady rain for 24 hours made the whole exercise more difficult. Reinforcements were sent in and the search was centred at the section man's shack near Coalspur, which was the point south of Robb where the track divided and went south to Cadomin and Mountain Park or southeast to Lovett, communities that are now ghost towns.

On the afternoon of Friday, September 6th, the search party gathered at the section man's shack, organized their afternoon hunt and headed out to look for Larson.

Their quarry had been watching all this from a clump of nearby trees and when the main party started their search he made his way to the warm shack and went inside. Detective Campbell and Constable McElroy were waiting inside, hoping that Larson would make such a move. They re-arrested him, and late that afternoon Campbell was able to send another telegram to the Chief, advising him that Larson had been recaptured.

Larson was brought back to Edmonton by train and locked up in city cells. The following week he was arraigned before Magistrate Primrose in Police Court and remanded for Preliminary Hearing on September 16th.

Larson didn't give up easily. About 3:00 a.m. September 25th, Larson was outside his cell door in the company of two guards. He asked for a drink of water before being locked up again, and was handed a large cup which had a sharp rim. Larson complained about the shackles on his ankles and when Constable Little stooped down to check, Larson brought the sharp edge of the mug down across Little's neck, missing the jugular vein by about an inch. Little was stunned and bleeding badly, but Larson was quickly locked up and eventually appeared before the Honourable Justice Simmons in Alberta Supreme Court.

None of the witnesses could link Larson directly with Nixon's murder. Larson was found guilty on charges of robbery and attempted murder, but he was found not guilty on the murder charge. Nevertheless, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

First officer murdered may not have been an officer at all!



Less than a year before the death of Constable Nixon another member of the Edmonton Police, Frank Beevers, was murdered. The status of employment of Beevers has been a little confusing in that many reports of the time advised he was actually a janitor while others report he was a constable. Presently it is believed the position was posthumously given.

The incident began on the evening of October 16, 1918 at the home of a Sam Zappler on Churchill Avenue. Zappler had been playing poker with a friend, Curley Krause, and a man named Campbell. The game went on all night, with Zappler the winner and Campbell the big loser. All were drinking but stopped around six in the morning of October 17 when Campbell and Zappler got into Zappler's car to go for a ride, with Krause following them in his vehicle. Near 77th street, Campbell produced a revolver and demanded his money back. Zappler tried to grab the gun and Campbell fired two shots into Zappler's lower abdomen. Campbell took a roll of bills totalling \$665 and a diamond ring from him as he lay dying. A witness heard the shots and saw two men drive away at high speed, and found Zappler lying on the grass beside the road. She called police.

Zappler was still alive, and gave a statement to Chief Hill and Magistrate Primrose as he lay dying at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

The second man seen fleeing the scene was Curley Krause, who had somehow ended up in Zappler's car along with Campbell. According to Krause, Campbell pointed the revolver at him and he fled driving back to the centre of the city - straight to the Police Station - where he gave a statement which confirmed that given by the dying Zappler.

In his deposition to Chief Hill and Magistrate Primrose, Zappler said he'd been introduced to Campbell by Robert Kline, manager of the Northern Hotel. The Chief sent Inspector Haig, Sergeant Kelley and Frank Beevers to investigate. Beevers was actually the janitor at police headquarters but due to wartime shortages Haig, Kelley and Beevers were the only men available to go out on the call.

The three officers arrived at the hotel about 9:00 o'clock. Beevers was stationed at the back door in case anyone tried to leave that way. Inspector Haig and Sergeant Kelley began a search of the hotel itself. The officers found one of the doors on the second floor locked. They knocked but got no answer.

Campbell was in that room when the policemen knocked. When there was no answer, they made their way along the corridor. Campbell apparently slipped out of the room and headed for the back door. The two policemen heard two shots from the rear of the hotel. They ran down the stairs, out the back door, saw a man running down the lane on foot and found Frank Beevers on the Rice Street sidewalk, leaning against the wall unable to talk. Beevers collapsed and died later in hospital.

The hunt for Joseph Campbell was on.

Campbell's movements on the Thursday night following the two murders were never clearly established. Police discovered that he spent the night in Edmonton at a boarding house and he left the city heading south sometime on Friday, probably on foot. They later established that he had made his way to Leduc and had gone to work as a casual labourer on a threshing crew at the farm of H. Stahn, five miles from Leduc.

Campbell worked with the threshing crew that day and, along with the rest of the crew, returned to Leduc and checked into the Waldorf Hotel. In the course of the evening the other

members of the crew grew increasingly suspicious. Campbell didn't look like a casual labourer, and he didn't dress like one.

The Edmonton Bulletin carried a picture of Campbell in that day's issue, and the threshing crew began to compare Campbell to the picture in the paper.

The Leduc town constable was alerted and agreed with the crew's suspicions. He telephoned the Provincial Police in Edmonton, who sent a car with three officers to Leduc. They arrived about 11:00 that evening and found Campbell settling down for the night with two other members of the threshing gang.

The arrest was made quietly. Campbell asked for permission to retrieve an identity card he had in his clothing. The permission was denied. The officers searched Campbell's clothing themselves and found a .36 calibre Colt revolver, unloaded, and \$92 in cash, some of the bills marked with blood stains.

Justice prevailed throughout the case. Curley Joe Krause, one of the other poker players the night of the big game, was also arrested and charged with aiding and abetting the murderer to escape.

After a two-day trial in the spring of 1919, and after 40 minutes of deliberation, a jury found Campbell guilty of the murder of both Zappler and Constable Frank Beevers. Joseph Arthur Campbell was sentenced to be hanged at the Fort Saskatchewan Gaol on April 23, 1919. The sentence was duly carried out.



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More Lessons From Hollywood

A peek behind-the-scenes at one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement!



by Dave Brown

It's a perilous occupation! The firearms instructor must possess the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, and the resilience of Robocop. Add life-saving information they must impart to a wide mix of students, and it is obvious that they must stay at the acute edge of modern firearms training. Up to now, how they manage to stay abreast of all the latest techniques has been a trade secret but, at the risk of incurring the wrath of my fellow educators, I would like to take an incisive look at how firearms instructors really learn all the valuable information they pass on to their students.

In a previous Blue Line article ("Lessons Hollywood Got Right," May, 1995) I described how movies can sometimes provide some valuable lessons for police officers. The movie *Top Gun* illustrated how modern training should closely match real world conditions, and officers should train like they will fight, because they will always fight like they have been trained.

Okay, the secret is now out. All the latest firearms training techniques are picked up from watching television. I would like to share a few chosen examples taken from literally years of exhaustive research. Sit back, kick your feet up, and learn.

Just be warned, this is serious business we are dealing with here! My wife may think that I am just some kind of lazy slob sitting in front of the TV night after night, but on the contrary, I suffer a great deal of personal sacrifice to scour the world for these tips. Use them wisely.

Baywatch

There are some programs on television that I watch regularly and intently, strictly for their application to the training profession — *Baywatch* is one.

In one episode, trainee lifeguards were asked to respond to a hypothetical situation in which they were rescuing a drowning victim just as a huge wave was about to smash them both against a pier. One response was to place the lifeguard's body between the victim and the pier. The correct response was to place the victim's body between the lifeguard and the pier. If the lifeguard goes down, they both die.

In any confrontational situation as a police officer, your very first priority is to keep yourself alive. Do not rush headlong into any situa-



tion without evaluating the safety risk to yourself or your fellow officers.

Police administrators also like to stress the importance of the lower ranks being prepared to leap forcefully in front of their superiors to protect them if the bullets start flying. After all, if the boss goes down, the whole chain of command crumbles.

True Lies

As a firearms instructor, I ensure my students practice unusual position shooting. I call these "been-there, done-that" drills. If you practice for the unusual, you are more prepared psychologically for that sudden confrontation. Rare indeed is the opportunity to gain a textbook perfect grip and stance in real life shooting incidents.

Arnold Schwarzenegger illustrated in the movie *True Lies* why this is so vitally important. You never really know when you may be one day sliding down a ski slope backwards, while lying flat on your back, accurately engaging uphill targets. This may be a bit more difficult for your Range Officer to reconstruct, but a potentially life-saving skill, nevertheless. It is certainly worth requesting a day of practice at the ski slope.

Bullitt

There are many parallels between the fields of firearms instruction and pursuit driver training. In what must be the greatest car chase sequence of all time, Steve McQueen drove all his own stunts in *Bullitt*, and illustrated the real life hazards of such pursuits. The effects of adrenaline—loss of concentration, impaired judgement, and intense tunnel vision—create such serious side effects that the danger to bystanders is multiplied tenfold. An accident which could have easily been avoided under ideal conditions, becomes much more likely in such a scenario.

Pursuit driving instructors love to illustrate how car control beats ultimate speed every time, and a police vehicle can still out drive a target vehicle around a racetrack, circling up to 10 kilometres an hour slower. Steve McQueen also shows how the driver must always look where he wants to go, and not where the car is facing. He had those two directions as mutually exclusive in his Shelby Mustang as a mosh pit

at a tea party.

Bullitt also illustrated how there is nothing in life that sounds quite like an American-made V8 engine at full song. (Apparently, not even an American V8. Director Peter Yates actually dubbed in the engine noises later, to get the sound he wanted!)

Speed

There were several lessons in the movie *Speed*. One good, and one not so good. In a hostage situation, simply taking the hostage out with a well-placed shot may be just a tiny bit difficult to justify legally and morally. Particularly, if that hostage is your partner.

Keanu Reeves and Jeff Daniels did illustrate how playing "what-if" games with your partner is a great way to review departmental policies and to prepare mentally for unexpected situations. In police work, it is vital that each officer knows how their partner will respond in an emergency, before it happens. On those rare quiet nights, compare responses to hypothetical situations and you will soon be able to read your partner like a book... if not like a Hollywood movie.

The Simpsons

There are occasions when you should be justifiably proud of your accomplishments and occasions that call for a low profile. When Homer Simpson becomes a protected witness, his family's commemorative T-shirts with "F.B.I. Federal Witness Protection Program" stenciled on the back may not have been a good choice of attire.

When working undercover, it may be wise to leave your "To Protect and To Serve... after doughnuts!" T-shirt at home.

Heat

Don't bring a handgun to a rifle fight. (Just ask the F.B.I.)

Die Hard

Departments use standardized police challenges for a reason. Just like any other technical skill, the constant repetition of your departmental challenge should ensure that you automatically yell "Police! Don't Move!" in a potentially lethal situation rather than something like "Yippee-ki-y-yeah!!!". Inadvertently blurt out anything else and it always comes back to haunt you, in direct proportion to the inappropriateness of the remark.

There are literally millions of examples from television that can provide some valuable (?) real-life advice to the street officer.

I have to cut this article short, as *Baywatch* is coming on soon, but you can get your own education. Write in to the editor of Blue Line with your own favourite example of a technique that actually managed to slip through the silly irrelevancy of the typical Hollywood cop show. Who knows, you may even find a career as technical adviser to Hollywood movies. (If you do, will you please get Chuck Norris to keep his stupid finger out of the trigger guard!)



Immensely dedicated (did we say talented?) Winnipeg firearms instructor, Dave Brown, continues, even today, to search the airwaves for the latest in firearms training techniques. And... his wife still thinks he is just a lazy slob!

Energize Your Christmas



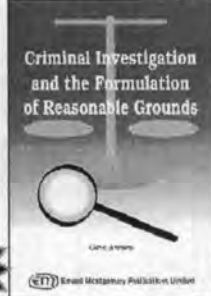
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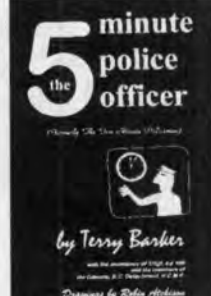
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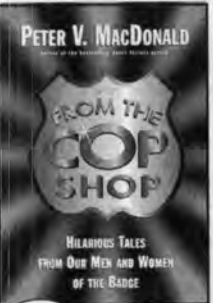
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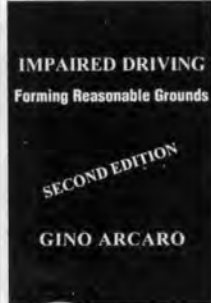
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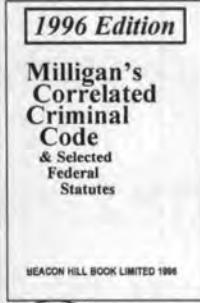
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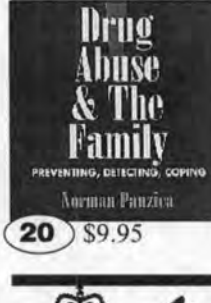
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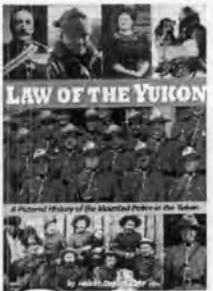
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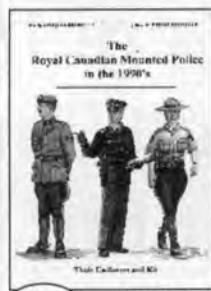
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