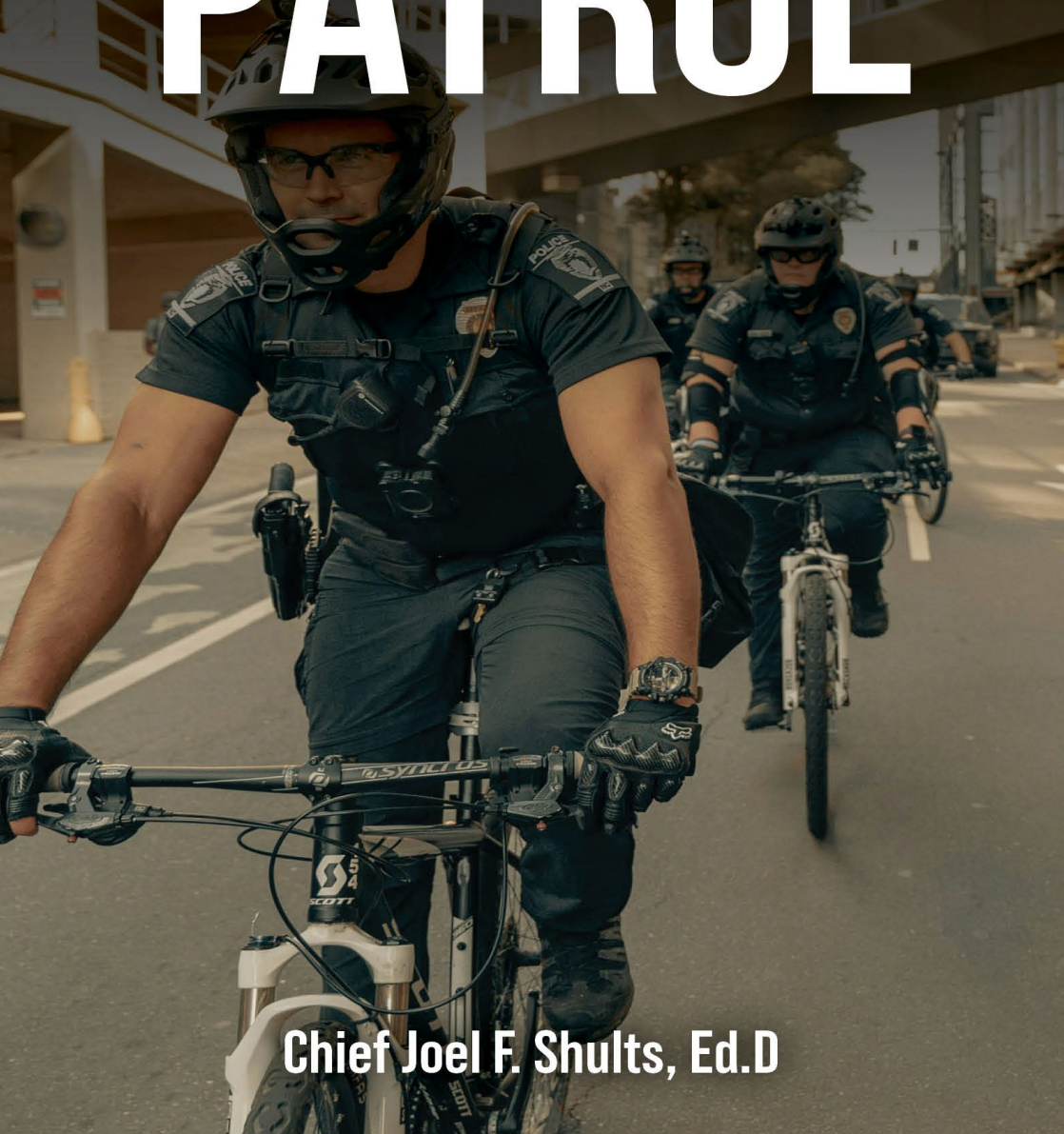


ON  
**PATROL**



**Chief Joel F. Shults, Ed.D**

The National Police Association's free Law Enforcement education series is designed for home school, classroom, or independent learning. As part of our nonprofit educational mission, it prepares you for careers in public safety. This series is authored by [Chief Joel F. Shults, Ed.D.](#)

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## The Cop's Holiday Spirit

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There are a lot of great things about being in law enforcement. There's a sense of purpose, experiences of saving lives, bringing peace to chaos, the internal assurance that the world is an incrementally better place with you in it. Granted, there are days and seasons when it takes deliberate and disciplined thought to affirm those reasons to keep on keeping on.

There are those quiet moments on midnight shift when there's no paperwork locking you in your cubicle and you bounce through the alley looking for burglaries in the glow of the in-car computer terminal. The waves from the early morning delivery drivers tossing newspapers or delivering groceries. The first whiff of the first donuts from your favorite coffee shop. The dawn that creases your eyelids and promises the end of your shift.

There is the camaraderie of fellow officers regardless of the badge or patch that they wear. There are the insider jokes, the eye-rolling about the administration, the funniest drunk tale, and the latest pursuit story. The careful humor over the radio where you know you're being recorded but only an insider will know what you're really saying. All these things make it hard for most cops to hang up the uniform and become a normal civilian when the time comes, whether that's retirement or a job offer that pays better, won't get you killed, and gets you weekends and holidays off.

But holidays can be rough on the men and women in blue. Although most types of crime increase in the warmer months there are a disproportionate number of memories from those holiday shifts around Thanksgiving and Christmas. While the decorations glisten and the ads are all warm and fuzzy, the tragedies that happen during the holiday season are deeper and darker than they would be any other time. The drunken dads seem more pitiful. Fatal crashes will forever mark the holiday season for family members. Suicide rates are greater in the spring and summer months, but when it happens during the holiday season it's hard to have those happy holiday moments.

Cops see the poverty-stricken often, but slim holidays are particularly sad. Families that are doing the very best they can do but fall short with one bad turn of luck. Many officers and agencies are involved in meal and toy collection and delivery. The fun of watching a child during a shop with a cop event is tempered with knowing their struggle the other 364 days of the year.

Domestic disturbance calls are always a high-risk event, but a holiday DV call can be even more intense. Maybe the family is getting together for the first time in a long time and long-simmering tensions are not forgotten. Alcohol melts away the filters of common sense and loosens the tongue to say what should remain unspoken. Visits from the in-laws and outlaws last longer than the host can tolerate. Family homicides are close up and personal, wounds showing high emotion.

Travelers that crash and get stranded, households displaced by a Christmas tree-sparked fire, and EMS

calls for family members who were struggling to stay alive for the holidays but didn't make it long enough to wave goodbye to people who knew it might be their last visit can punctuate the cop's holiday. Some officers are able to stop by their homes for a dinner break with family. Some join community dinners for those with no other place to be. Some simply spend another special day on patrol or on-call with no hope of having a holiday of their own or hugging loved ones today.

There are those holiday shifts where no one crashes in your zone, where no drunk driver ventures out. Sometimes the radio interrupts the shift only to check the time and your location. Sometimes the decorated streets, businesses, and houses are still and beautiful and offer hope for peace. Those are shifts when the officer exhales a thankful sigh as they pull off their ballistics vest and drop their equipment belt at the door of their own home at the end of their day.

But even a quiet holiday shift will not erase the memories of the ones that were not so quiet. The ones punctuated by flashing red and blue lights from police, fire, and EMS vehicles invading the Christmas lights. The ones where neighbors peek out of their frosty windows out of curiosity and concern or step into the street in their robes and nightgowns. There is no forgetting holding a child shivering from cold or fear or pain. There is no joy in booking some knucklehead who couldn't manage to give a day off to their selfish criminality. The holidays bring light to most of us. But they bring dark shadows to the world of first responders.

## Hero Report

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If a police officer hurts a suspect it can be national headline news. The daily heroic performance of the other 800,000 cops might be a blip on the local news station at best. In case you've missed it, here are some things that law enforcement officers are doing every day.

March 14th in Covington, VA a 1-year veteran officer responded to a domestic disturbance at a gas station where a suspect had just shot his father-in-law. The officer, Caleb Ogilvie, a Marine Corp veteran and father of 4, was shot and killed in an exchange of gunfire in which the suspect was also killed.

On Sunday, March 13th, a Texas Deputy Sheriff with the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office was engaged in a routine investigation. Deputy Sawyer Wilson had occasion to contact Michael Stark who, apparently unknown to the deputy was a parole violator with a long and violent criminal history. Deputy Wilson survived a shot to the chest due to his body armor but was shot in the side and arm with serious injuries. While in the hospital, Wilson is reported to ask to help in the investigation and search for Stark who was arrested 13 hours later.

Albuquerque, New Mexico police responded to a neighborhood to a report of a gunshot victim on Monday, March 14th. On arrival, APD officers heard additional gunshots and while searching for the source



encountered a gunman who fired on the officers, injuring two. The gunman was shot dead.

On March 8th in Portland, Oregon officers Justin Raphael and Tyler Wyatt arrived on the scene of a shooting with a victim lying near death on the ground. Not knowing if a shooter was still in the area, officers chose to enter the vulnerable area to give aid to the victim. Using major wound kits they carry; the officers were able to staunch the bleeding and get the victim to advance care where he survived.

Sgt. William Drew and Officer Nathan Rodgers of Montgomery County Maryland were heading home after midnight on March 5th when they saw a burning, crashed car. Drew broke out a window and was able to pull the unconscious driver from the flaming wreckage while Rodgers used an extinguisher to fight the blaze.

Two Pierce County, Washington officers were wounded Tuesday, March 15th in a SWAT operation to arrest Jeremy Dayton who was wanted for an assault with a firearm charge. Deputy Dominique Calata was in grave condition Tuesday night. The other wounded deputy, Sergeant Rich Scaniffe, was out of surgery Tuesday evening and in stable condition.

In a less dramatic display of protecting and serving, an unidentified Michigan State Trooper saved a confused swan wandering around a Detroit area highway on March 14th.

Columbus Ohio police officers were investigating reports that a car was firing randomly at motorists along

Interstate 71 on Friday, March 11th. Responding officers came under fire and a brief gunfight between the suspect and police resulted in gunshot injuries to the suspect and several rounds shot into a police cruiser.

An armed man in Joplin, Missouri was shot by a Joplin police officer on March 8th after the suspect shot two Joplin PD officers. Cpl. Benjamin Cooper was slain at the scene of a confrontation with an armed man in a shopping area. Also shot was Officer Jake Reed who was transported to a hospital but did not survive.

A routine early morning traffic stop on Sunday, March 13th by Phoenix police turned violent after a pedestrian nearby opened fire on the officers. The suspected gunman was arrested after a manhunt. One officer was treated for a bullet wound and the other for injuries from flying glass.

In Salt Lake City's airport, John D. Baydo, 32 came up behind two SLPD officers who were walking foot patrol inside the airport and punched one of the officers in the side of the head in an unprovoked attack.

On March 6th a major highway was closed to traffic because of a marathon race in progress. Kristen Kay Watts, 52 drove through barricades and past police officers headed toward hundreds of racers. Florida troopers blocked the roadway as Watts continued at a high speed toward them, crashing head-on into a patrol car operated by Trooper Toni Schuck who is recovering from injuries sustained in the crash. Schuck is being praised for putting herself between the drunk driver

and the racers, potentially saving dozens of lives and injuries.

That covers less than 10 days on the calendar and only a tiny fraction of the heroism, service, and sacrifice that happens every moment in the law enforcement profession. How was your week?

## Cold Weather Cops

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One of the great things about being a police officer is the opportunity to be outside in the air and elements. One of the bad things about being a police officer is being outside in the air and the elements.

Officers who work in areas that experience all four seasons learn to make adjustments for their seasonal work. It is easier for those who live in primarily cold climates to make allowances for the temperature, wind, ice, and snow. Then there are those who experience unseasonably cold weather from time to time and can be caught without proper gear or the proper mindset.

Of course, there are plenty of jobs that require outdoor work in harsh weather, but for first responders, there is no option to wait for better weather, and a wrong decision could be fatal. Although most crime statistics show an increase in crime during warmer months, exceptions may be domestic violence since people are more likely to be at home longer and car theft where “puffers” (cars left running to warm up while unlocked while running) are ripe for picking.

Heavy winter clothing is good for avoiding hypothermia, but not so good for subduing resisting arrestees. Clicking handcuffs over coats and sweaters is slower due to having to adjust sleeves and un snag the ratchets. Pressure points and areas for striking can be inaccessible or well-padded. Taser probes may not reach their target through heavy winter clothing, and

cops and bad guys both wearing coats can turn into a Sumo wrestling contest.

Footwear is a critical component for cops in any weather, but making the adjustment from normal boots or shoes to bulky winter boots affects the ability to drive and run. My experience in Midwest ice storms proves there is nothing short of spikes that create control on frictionless roads while working a crash scene where the ability to quickly jump over a guardrail to avoid out-of-control traffic is a consideration.

Balancing body temperature from chills to sweat is tricky. Keeping the patrol car too warm creates a shock when you finally have to get out on a call. Sweating in the car or from exertion can translate into chilly discomfort. Fogged-up glasses are a hazard when entering a warm house on a domestic or a bar for a fight call. Overall mobility is slowed with the layers required for outside work, and stationary positions like directing traffic or guarding a crime scene provide no external warming opportunities and little physical activity to keep the blood flowing.

Working a crash on a snowy or icy day is inevitable. Having a high-energy snack, a thermos with coffee, cocoa, or soup, and being sure to wear high visibility coat or vest can save the day. One might have to violate the dress code to switch from the campaign hat to a fuzzy one with earflaps, but it would be worth the write-up. A wise strategy is to remember your mother's advice use the bathroom before you go out. Toileting is arduous enough with bulky equipment in a nice warm place without going in nature.

I was once called out on a day off to respond to a hostage situation resulting from a botched bank robbery. I had enough experience with Colorado winters to don my insulated underwear, grab a sleeping bag, and stop to fill a thermos with hot coffee before taking up a position on a nearby roof for several hours in single-digit temps.

Gloves are another essential for cold weather patrol. Insulated gloves can keep the trigger finger warm and supple, but getting that gloved finger inside the trigger guard is another matter. During Army winter survival training I was issued big white mittens that could operate an M-16 because the trigger guard on the weapon had a hinge that opened up to accommodate a fat mitten. Not so with duty sidearms. Either the officer wears thinner gloves with less warmth, gloves with the trigger finger sleeve cut off, or practice whipping off the glove as part of drawing the gun.

Hats off (or flaps down) to the men and women working in the ice, snow, wind, and cold rain. Stay warm, and stay safe.

## Police Work is Like A Box of Chocolates....

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You never know what you're going to get.

One of the things cops like about the job is the variety. It may seem that the days are filled with traffic stops, theft reports, and resolving disputes, but an ordinary call can become unique in a split second. Then there are some calls that start out weird.

While working campus law enforcement we had a report of a blowgun attack. It was a drive-by, random knucklehead who thought that spitting darts at unsuspecting bystanders would make his weekend more exciting. The fear in his eyes when he was caught never matched the terror in the girl's eyes waiting for the paramedics to take the dart from her arm.

Also in the random attacks by sharp objects department, a Texas woman was driving in San Antonio recently when a spear pierced her windshield which, fortunately, was stopped by her steering wheel just inches away from her. The investigation continues.

In Florida, a date over drinks turned to attempted murder after a man ended up in the hospital from drinking cocktails spiked with Raid roach spray. The woman invited the man to her home in DeLeon Springs. Experts say that insecticides like Raid contain poisons that can restrict breathing, induce seizures, cause vomiting, and result in victims going into a coma. The woman fled from police but was found by a police K9

where she was hiding in bushes near the home. She was charged with a felony.

As an example of attacks with other unconventional weapons, a man with a history of assaults on law enforcement charged a Connecticut detective in an unprovoked attack. Detective Kari Travis suffered several blows resulting in stitches and bruises after the man struck her, knocked her down, and continued the attack even after being shot by the detective.

While a veteran Miami, FL detective was interrupting a carjacking at an accident scene, she was intentionally struck and pinned against a vehicle by Andrew Wardell, 49. Wardell was charged with attempted murder after using a stolen vehicle to assault Detective Marvalyn Lee Chin, a 19-year veteran officer, against a parked vehicle, then striking another officer as he attempted to flee. Lee Chin suffered serious injuries in the attack.

A police officer chose to use his patrol car as a weapon to stop an active shooter. The Nassau County police officer came across a female “waving the gun around at innocent people, putting them in fear for their lives” and ended the threat with the most immediate means available by striking the woman down with his vehicle.

In a more conventional use of a patrol car to stop a crime, a Georgia Trooper stopped a truck that had struck several onlookers after doing donuts in the street and driving toward a crowd of people. The trooper used a tactical intervention to ram the truck and stop the reckless driver.



In Kentucky, police rescued a woman who had been chained to the floor of a house after attacking her with a machete then leaving her alone in the residence. The woman managed to get close to a window that she was able to break and yell for help. Firefighters and police had to break into the barricaded home using a ladder to reach her on the second floor of the home, then used bolt cutters to free her.

In Denver, CO an officer was cut by his own badge that was ripped from his shirt and used as a weapon in a surprise attack during a routine wellness check at an apartment complex. Being called to check on someone's well-being is a routine police call, but one where the outcome is never known. While the officer was talking to the caller, the suspect came out of the building and began assaulting the officer, including ripping off his badge to inflict a six-inch gash on the officer's neck, then attempting to gain control of the officer's gun and a second officer's TASER.

An officer cannot afford to make assumptions about what will greet them even during the most routine of activities. Any officer that says they've seen it all won't know if that's true until the next call.

## Summertime and the Living Ain't Easy

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Ah, the sound of children playing in sprinklers and the smell of 4th of July gunpowder. Hit the road with the camper and see the sights. Crank up the AC and pour the sweet tea. And maybe check your ammo.

Since the morning of summer solstice and the time of this writing five police officers have been murdered and one killed in a duty-related car crash. Another 55 citizens have been murdered in mass shootings during this period. Although this year's statistics on officer assaults are not yet compiled, an average of 5000 officers are seriously assaulted every month, and that tabulates only those injuries that come to the attention of the FBI. The Fraternal Order of Police reports that 194 officers were shot in the first six months of this year. Injuries and assaults are vastly under-reported and do not include the kicks and punches and attempts faced regularly by police officers.

Here are some samples of what police have experienced in the past few weeks:

In Rush Spring, Oklahoma, and suspect handcuffed and detained by police managed to steal a patrol car and ran over the officer before crashing nearby. The officer was not seriously injured.

In Atlanta, Georgia, several police motorcycles were in flames from an arsonist while the vehicles were parked at a training facility. It is unknown if this relates to

recent protests over the planned training center that has been a point of controversy.

A simple call of a trespassing complaint at a grocery store turned lethal as a Taos, New Mexico officer was shot while responding to the call. The shooter was killed a short time later by Taos police during his attempt to carjack a pickup truck, firing at the driver. The wounded officer was treated and released.

A North Carolina trooper collapsed from heat exhaustion in Knightdale as the heat index soared to 108 in the region. A good Samaritan saw the officer in distress and used the trooper's radio to call for assistance. The trooper was treated and reported to be in good condition.

Easton, Massachusetts officers quickly jumped into a swamp and waded out to rescue a woman who yelled for help. She had been stuck in the muddy milieu for three days when hikers who could not see the victim but called 911 after hearing her screams. She suffered serious injuries and was located fifty feet from shore in thick brush and swamp.

Laredo, Texas SWAT officers rescued three children being held hostage by a man armed with a rifle who was barricaded in a mobile home. After failed attempts at negotiation, the police team breached the home, rescued the children, and arrested the suspect without further incident even though the suspect had the rifle within his reach.

A North Carolina state trooper stopped to assist what appeared to be a stranded motorist. The driver responded by shooting the trooper, who was able to return fire and kill his assailant. The trooper was shot in the chest but was saved by his protective vest. The officer was released after hospitalization.

A Gates Mills police officer pulled a man to safety from a burning vehicle that had crashed into a utility pole. The vehicle had been spotted driving erratically by the officer who lost sight of it but continued searching until coming across the vehicle with flames coming from the front end and spreading.

In the “other duties as assigned” category, Minnesota deputies used a drone to search for a missing crash victim and rescued a man who had collapsed on active railroad tracks. Montgomery, Alabama officers lassoed an agitated cow charging in the area where 200 children were gathered for a summer church activity at Taylor Road Baptist Church. Chandler, Arizona police carried a woman down the stairs of a burning apartment building. The elderly woman was using a walker. A Madison, Wisconsin officer broke a car window to rescue two dogs in distress from the heat. Firefighters who had responded for a water rescue were themselves rescued by a New Jersey State Police helicopter after the rescuers went over a waterfall. A Pinellas County Sheriff’s deputy saved a struggling manatee by holding its head above water for over two hours. In Sacramento County, California, members of the Deputy Sheriff’s Association provided a new canine companion for an eight-year-old girl whose puppy had been intentionally run over. Glendale, Arizona officers rescued a trapped

German shepherd from a canal by bribing it with a home-made muffin.

Limited time, type, and space won't allow all of the stories that could be included here. The headlines range from wild car chases to officers swept away in water, to violent armed encounters and ambushes.

How is your summer going?

## No Safe Space for Cops

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Whether it was the break room at the battery factory, the hay truck parked under the shade of a tree beside the field, or the truck stop café with the diesel left running, there was always a place I could find to get a little thinking done or get my mind off work.

Not so for police officers. In 2009, uniformed Lakewood, Washington officers gathered around the table at a coffee shop with their laptops to catch up on reports on a quiet Sunday morning when they were assassinated by a gunman. The killer was found and shot by Seattle Police two days later. In June of this year, a gunman drove his truck to the Lewistown barracks of the Pennsylvania State Police in Juniata County and begin firing at marked patrol units, killing one Trooper and seriously wounding another. The killer was shot dead by police after a manhunt and intense gunbattle.

Also this month, the Colorado Springs Police Operations building was assaulted by a rock thrown through its front doors. A man was arrested at the scene. In September of last year, a man broke into a Chicago police training room during a SWAT class by climbing a fire escape and threatened officers who then shot and wounded him. In September of 2020, a man walked into a Los Angeles Police station lobby and begins arguing with the desk officer. The man started to walk away and was approached by the officer. The man turned and began a vicious attack, knocking the officer down and attempting to use the officer's own gun to

shoot the officer. The man fled and was apprehended after a struggle several blocks away.

A Los Angeles sheriff's deputy stopped an SUV that was driving recklessly. The SUV violently rammed the patrol car while the deputy was still inside. The deputy fired and killed the assailant. A Kentucky officer was injured by flying glass when a suspect in a vehicle paused, raised a rifle, and fired a single shot into the police car. The shooter was apprehended.

Two Denver officers were fired on in separate incidents, one of which was an apparently random ambush of an officer seated in a marked patrol car shortly after 4:00 a.m. The officer was saved by his ballistics vest which took several rounds. Although severely bruised from the bullets' impact, the officer was able to return fire and kill the shooter who fired 18 rounds in the attack. In Kentucky, an undercover fugitive search operation was interrupted when a hapless would-be carjacker attempted to assault the occupants of the unmarked police unit and steal the car in the middle of the day. The suspect was shot and killed.

A Colorado State Patrol vehicle was stolen by a suspect who had been pursued by local deputies in a rural part of the state. When the suspect was stopped after causing numerous crashes, he stole a marked patrol vehicle. The suspect was pursued then crashed into another vehicle and caught fire. The suspect died after being rescued and hospitalized.

A quote attributed to a number of famous people (thanks, internet) says "Even paranoids have real

enemies". For those who are inclined to mock the officer who insists, on or off-duty, on keeping their backs to the wall and an eye on the door, you'd have to know what cops know to understand. A citizen talking to an officer who keeps looking around when the citizen is trying to maintain eye contact may feel offended by the officer's inattention, but the officer is keeping them both safe by maintaining situational awareness.

Don't be surprised when you approach an officer who is seated in a patrol car to say hello or ask for directions if they get out suddenly before you get to the driver's side door, or keep their hand on their weapon during the conversation. Don't be insulted by the security measures in police stations that make it difficult to have personal contact with officers. These are unfortunate facts of life for the police, who must recognize the potential for lethal attack anytime, anywhere.



## March Madness isn't Just for Basketball

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Yes that magical time of the smell of refreshing rains, the chirping of birds returning to the budding trees, and tender flowers pushing their way through the thawing soil.

It's also time for gang members to pick up some extra cash for not committing crime. Of course they have to go to mediation, job training, and therapy, so we have yet to see if they need to negotiate for a pay raise to make it worthwhile.

In South Carolina, a deputy was shot by another deputy but it was all in fun. A training exercise was using fake ammunition, giving a playful cop the idea to shoot a buddy. The buddy jokingly fired back, forgetting that he had already turned in all of the fake ammo and was now once again carrying his fully load service weapon. The injured deputy, whom we presume was being asked to dance like the old bully cowboy, was shot in the leg.

In New Mexico, the Albuquerque police helicopter was assisting on a shots fired call when they became the target of the gunman. The pilot shut off the lights and engaged in evasive maneuvers, but was able to assist officers on the ground to apprehend 30 year old Ryan Koplín.

Other assaults on officers include shots fired in front of a pub at Columbus, Ohio officers who were investigating a shots fired call, a Citronelle, Alabama officer whose nose was fractured during a

confrontation with a man holding a full soda can which he launched into the officer's face, and 23 persons were charged in the attack on a police training facility, with bricks, rocks, Molotov cocktails, and fireworks launched at officers in Atlanta, Georgia.

Two Newton, Massachusetts officers were assaulted during a domestic violence call. The suspect attempted to disarm one officer and hit both officers in the head rendering one unconscious. In Fort Walton Beach, an officer was trapped in a fleeing suspects vehicle while being assaulted by the driver who told the officer "you're going to die today". The officer was rescued after the vehicle crashed and the felonious Antonio Marquis Belle-Betts, 27, was arrested.

A Detroit police officer suffered broken bones, a lacerated liver and a collapsed lung when he was run over by a tow truck driver. The driver had a suspended license and outstanding traffic warrants. Chicago police officer Andres M. Vasquez Lasso was shot to death on duty responding to a domestic violence call. Master Trooper James R. Bailey of the Indiana State Police, was working a multi-car accident when he received word of a pursuit headed his way. He deployed road spikes to intervene in the pursuit but was killed with the fleeing driver struck him. The driver has been charged with murder.

A parolee who was granted early release from robbery convictions because he had "several credits during his incarceration under good conduct and program participation guidelines," shot and wounded three LAPD officers who were among those searching for him.

Jonathan Magana, 32 was located but refused to cooperate with officers and opened fire. He subsequently shot himself and died.

Seattle voters in overwhelming numbers, whose elected representatives have been engaged in a ceaseless barrage of restrictions and criticism of its police even in the midst of a hiring crises, have show support for hiring more cops and paying them better. With Mayor and Council seats up for election in the near future, the hopes of restoring respect and support for the PD remain. Meanwhile, the Washington state legislature has decided that maybe police should be allowed to chase some lawbreakers after all, but only after two children were killed by a driver the law prohibited officers from pursuing.

Daytona Beach police were attempting to break up a group of motorcyclists engaged in dangerous driving. While pursuing a number of the bikers who fled, one driver turned to give an obscene gesture to a pursuing officer just moments before running a red light and being struck by a truck. Sometimes natural consequences come swiftly.

That's a glimpse of the arrival of March as Spring approaches in the law enforcement world. How's your month going?

## Remember the Midnight Shift

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Just remember me. I may not have my name engraved on a memorial wall or be saluted once a year with misty eyes and trumpets played. I don't want to compete for glory or take away anything from those whose last heart beat was beneath a badge stilled at their last breath or lovingly adorned before they are laid to rest. Remember me in the glow of the patrol car's console as I bumped through alleys on a quiet midnight shift, balancing a cup of coffee. Part of me is glad for the quiet respite from the back-to-back demands of dispatch. Part of me wishes something would happen because I'm wired for those adrenaline infusions that keep my soul alive. From some subliminal habit my mind balances a practiced calm against the constant scanning of my senses. A thousand cues are processed as sounds or silence, shades of shadow and reflections of light keep every atom at attention. I am ready to chase, ready to retreat, ready to rescue. To the happily ignorant observer I'm a dulled door shaker just waiting for the donut shop to open. But remember me as the warrior who, while my family and yours slept warmly, shared the darkness with the evil I was quietly hunting.

Just remember me. I may not have a war story of dodging a hail of bullets. Not many of us do. Remember that I was willing; why else would I wrap my torso in Kevlar every day? My life is a walk among weapons. Guns and knives are plenty, but I see the ball point pen, the cell phone, the ashtray, the boot, the mini-van all poised for a kill. Just to go to work requires attaching tools of destruction to my body, itself a weapon and

shield. An officer of peace adorned with a half dozen ways to kill, inflict pain, and subdue. This same one who proudly assured those who hired him that he wanted to be a police officer to help people now heavy hearted that victory often means another man in chains. Remember me as a tormented crusader for all that is good, tainted by all that is not.

Just remember me. I may not show you my scars. I may not be among the many of my fellow warriors disabled by distress, but I am touched by their early deaths, their PTSD, their failed families, their addictions, and their bitterness. Remember that I could still smile and be quick with a joke and enjoy a good conversation. But know that I was always fighting pain. I cannot have pure grief for a fallen comrade at a police officer's funeral without weeping for my own mortality. I cannot shake the reality that death is my constant companion. I cannot enjoy the luxury of looking at my own delightful children without thinking of the dead and broken ones. It is a discipline to sit down and eat a meal soon after binding up the wounds that left skin and blood on the asphalt, to touch a loved one in a loving way after you've touched the dead. Remember me as one who carried on with life surrounded by reminders of its brevity.

Just remember me. I may not have as many enemies as I imagined, but it was not because I watched too many cop shows that I always had my eye on the door in the restaurant and I never carried anything in my gun hand. Nobody knew that I was calculating my odds on being able to take on anybody in the room, that I was looking for snipers and pickpockets at the ball game, that I was always a little disappointed that there was not a robbery

in progress when I went to the bank to cash a check, and that while I was singing hymns in church I was scouting trajectories to minimize crossfire just in case. Remember that I was 24/7 even when I didn't want to be.

Just remember. It is what I tell myself. If I don't celebrate my walk in this life I may, in my current comfort, forget the others still on the front lines of the ongoing battle. I mostly sit at a desk now. I have finally aged into my premature gray hair. My fingers are on business cards and laptop keyboards much more often than on Miranda cards and handcuffs these days. But I must remember the midnights. God forbid that I lay my head on my pillow and forget the men and women watching over the night to own it for me. Shame to me if I drive the highways and fail to remember why they are smooth and safe, or go to the voting booth and fail to appreciate why it is such an easy exercise in this nation. May I never leave a prayer unsaid for a siren sounding in the distance. I must not forget that nearly every block and section of the land tells a story of when a hero was there. They are my brothers and sisters whose hearts have beat beneath a badge. I am proud of them.

I remember.

## Police News Roundup – How was your week?

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Summertime and the living is dangerous. In Hillsborough County, a corrections deputy was being strangled by an inmate using a towel around her neck. She was saved when other inmates intervened. In California, two El Monte police officers responded to a possible stabbing at a motel and came under gunfire immediately on their arrival. The suspect was killed by another officer on the scene. Corporal Santana leaves behind his wife, a 9-year-old daughter, and twin 2-year-old boys. Officer Peredes leaves a wife, a daughter, and a son. The gunman was on probation on a previous firearms charge.

A mother's scream created what is known in law enforcement as exigent circumstances when Miami-Dade police officers arrived to a report of a disturbance in a normally quiet suburban apartment complex. When the officers asked the apartment's occupants to open the door, they were met with more screams. They forcibly entered the apartment to see the woman's son attacking with two knives. The officers commanded the suspect to stop, but had to shoot when he continued his attack. The knife-wielding man died at the hospital later.

Meanwhile, back in the state of California, two Arizona men are behind bars in San Bernadino after using a flame thrower to take over a street for drag racing. The device, used in agriculture rather than a military device, was used to melt asphalt for better traction. The California Department of Transportation estimated that the act caused \$150,000 in damage. Drag racing

and the takeover of streets have become increasingly common along with unruly crowds.

In Washington state, where restrictive laws restraining police officers have given unrestrained permission for criminal activity, a kidnapping suspect being pursued by police called 911 to complain that he wasn't supposed to be chased. The man, Isaac Sissel was being chased by Seattle Police after Sissel was wanted for taking his girlfriend and her cat hostage last month. Dispatch recording revealed that Sissel said, "It is an illegal pursuit and my license is suspended, and this is an illegal pursuit ... They're not supposed to be able to pursue."

In Durham County, North Carolina, deputies discovered that their location was being tracked by a GPS device that had been surreptitiously attached to their patrol vehicle. Officials fear that the purpose of the device was to monitor the deputies for an ambush.

A traffic stop in Los Angeles by a 27-year-old California Highway Patrol officer erupted in gunfire after a struggle between the officer and the driver of a white Ford Fusion. The driver and occupant were later arrested after a manhunt located them at a homeless encampment. The officer was shot and in critical but stable condition. He is expected to recover, but that good news is always shrouded in the possibility of permanent disability, chronic pain, and psychological distress.

State troopers with the Utah Highway Patrol stopped a vehicle for illegal window tint and discovered that a 7-year-old girl was hidden in the back seat in a smuggling



attempt by the driver and occupants. Alejandro Marcos Carrillo-Lira, age 33, and Brandon Alexis Vargas Cardoso, 21, were booked on one first-degree felony count each of aggravated human smuggling. The alert officers realized that the driver's explanation was not consistent with the men's statements and discovered the little girl was being smuggled across the country. Glad these officers were enforcing what the anti-police crowd says are minor and unnecessary stops.

Duncanville, Texas police officers killed a would-be child killer who was armed with a handgun and fired into a community field house where 150 kids were attending a summer camp program. Officers arrived about two minutes after the report of shots fired, exchanged gunfire with the shooter, killing him at the scene.

A fugitive in Wicomico County Maryland murdered Sheriff's Deputy First Class Glenn Hilliard was killed Sunday evening while fleeing on foot from an apartment complex. The killer was caught after a manhunt. Deputy Hilliard was a 16-year law enforcement veteran, a husband, and the father of three children.

That's a sampling of a few days in the lives of our men and women protecting and serving with honor and courage. How was your week?

## The tragic, heroic, exasperating law enforcement summer of 2022 so far

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There are plenty of occupations that aren't on a 9-5 schedule, but America still seems to run on the assumption that weekends exist and summertime is for relaxing. Here are some things that your police officers have been doing in the dog days of August.

In Indiana, K9 handler Seara Burton was shot while her canine partner, Brev, was sniffing for drugs on a traffic stop of a moped. The operator fired on Burton and a fellow officer. At the time of this writing, Burton is still fighting for her life after the August 10th shooting.

Michigan Trooper Nicholas Talbot used rescue equipment from his patrol vehicle to help save a ten-year-old swimmer trapped in the current at the base of Four Mile Dam in Alpena Township on August 11th. While the boy followed the Trooper's instructions to secure himself, a volunteer firefighter, Christopher Kinsey, used the flotation device from the Trooper's equipment to swim to the distressed youngster and get him to shore.

The headline of an article posted on the WMTW television station news website tells a succinct story: "Maine woman shoots herself in the butt with officer's gun during the struggle". Tameika Girardin, 24, had been arrested on August 16th for burglary and was being escorted by officers when Girardin began fighting while handcuffed. When she grabbed for the officer's

holstered weapon, she caused it to fire, striking her rear end.

A Saturday trip to a local Home Depot store by an off-duty Elko, Nevada police officer was interrupted when the officer noticed a man pushing a cart full of merchandise past the registers and into the parking lot. The officer called in a theft in progress and identified himself as a police officer when confronting the suspect in the parking lot. Christopher R. Prado, 42, abandoned nearly \$1400 of merchandise and fled into a nearby apartment complex where officers located him based on the off-duty officer's information.

Joplin Police Officer Rick Hirshey, a 21-year veteran, returned to school as a school resource officer at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary and Preschool. He returned to work after being shot in the face in a March attack that killed fellow police officers by a man they were investigating for a reported armed disturbance. The suspect shot arriving officers and fled in a stolen police car and was subsequently fatally shot by officers after a pursuit.

August 6th found two Connecticut police officers rescuing a suicidal woman from the precipice of a parking garage, pulling her to safety.

Back to school at Lincoln High in Stockton, California nearly started with a bang Monday, August 15th as a brawl between students escalated as a 17-year-old student drew and brandished a loaded handgun. A police officer at the school disarmed and arrested the juvenile.

Carla Jefferson, age 51, was arrested on August 8th by St. Petersburg, Florida police for making harassing phone calls and misuse of the 911 system. Jefferson has logged more than 11,000 calls to 911 in 2022, none of which were to summon help but all were to curse and criticize law enforcement.

Four juveniles, ages 12, 13, 15, and 16 were caught in a stolen car in Whitehall, Ohio on Monday, August 15th after it rammed a police vehicle. After the collision, the driver attempted to drive away but was pinned in by another patrol car as officers ordered the occupants out at gunpoint. Police Chief Mike Crispen reported, with disgust, that the 16-year-old driver smiled and laughed while being arrested "It seems these juveniles are not concerned with the ramifications to their actions and they think this is funny," Crispen said.

In Dallas, police officers noticed that many children in their Northwest Division had inadequate footwear. In 2017 they began an annual effort to help the local kids and this school year were able to provide athletic shoes to over 500 kids. Funding was from a cooperative effort between police and local industry.

How was your summer?

## About The Author

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This series is authored by [Chief Joel F. Shults, Ed.D.](#) Joel is a retired police chief. He is an award-winning writer, college professor, trainer, and first responder chaplain.