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The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), in cooperation with the Ontario Association of Law Enforcement Planners (OALEP), is proud to be hosting the 2016 annual International Association of Law Enforcement Planners (IALEP) conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on **September 19-23, 2016**.

The theme of the conference is **“Thinking Forward”** and embraces a focus on skills and insight needed for police planning in the future, including strategic foresight, community safety, and the many challenges to anticipate along the planning continuum. This conference has only been in Canada three times in the past 25 years, and offers a great opportunity for you and your members to attend, network with an international group of sworn and civilian police planners and academia, and showcase some of our Canadian talent.

The conference begins in Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, September 19th with an evening reception at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and runs all week, wrapping up with a Friday morning Roundtable breakfast. A special conference registration fee is being offered this year in celebration of the 25th anniversary of this annual training conference.

The agenda features topics on community engagement, learning through evaluation, socio-economic and policing impacts of autonomous vehicles, strategic foresight tools to help make robust long term decisions, visioning future law enforcement technologies, career passion by a renowned TED Talk presenter, arguments for evidence-based policing, a panel discussion on the future of community safety and well-being through collaborative partnerships, and much more! After hours, enjoy a curling bonspiel, a morning trip to St. Jacob's Farmers Market, and an evening banquet infused with the local Oktoberfest spirit.

Law enforcement planning and research is an integral component to police organizations and leaders, as we strive to **Think Forward** and stay ahead of this rapidly changing business of policing. We invite you and your members to join this international conference available in Waterloo, Ontario, this September.

The preliminary agenda is now available and registration is open.

Details can be found under the “Conference” menu at

www.ialep.org

PUBLISHER

Morley S. Lymburner – publisher@blueinc.ca

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHERS

Kathryn Lymburner – kathryn@blueinc.ca
Tom Rataj – tom@blueinc.ca

GENERAL MANAGER

Mary K. Lymburner – mary@blueinc.ca

SENIOR EDITOR

Mark Reesor – editor@blueinc.ca

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

E. Jolene Dreja – jolene@blueinc.ca

ART DIRECTOR

Janell Bemister – janell@blueinc.ca

MARKETING MANAGER

Mary Lymburner – mary@blueinc.ca

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dave Brown
Stephanie Conn
Dorothy Cotton

Chris D Lewis
Mike Novakowski
Tony Palermo

AFFILIATIONS

International Association of
Law Enforcement Planners
Canadian Advertising Rates Data
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The Canadian Press Newswire
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ADVERTISING

888-640-3048 advertising@blueinc.ca

www.blueinc.ca

12A-4981 Hwy7 East, Ste 254,
Markham, ON L3R 1N1 Canada

P: 905-640-3048 F: 905-640-7547
blueinc@blueinc.ca

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by Morley Lymburner



Solving a high crime problem

"This officer saved my life and he probably doesn't even know it," the letter explained. My head spun as the inspector read further.

"He stopped me for speeding and did something weird. He cautioned me for speeding but gave me a ticket for not wearing my seatbelt. I wasn't sure if I should be grateful or angry but I begrudgingly wore my seatbelt after that. About a month later I was in a bad accident and that seatbelt saved my life. I am grateful and just wanted someone to thank him."

The inspector looked at me solemnly. "So why did you caution him for speeding?" he asked with a wink.

My job as a Toronto police traffic officer was giving tickets to good guys to prevent them from hurting other good guys. This was my rationale for the many thousands of tickets I issued over the years. The letter confirmed that I had saved at least one from his own misadventure.

I didn't enjoy dragging mutilated people out of cars and figured that the more tickets I issued, the less often I would have to do that unpleasant job. An arrested impaired driver was a special catch and almost a badge of honour.

Making traffic stops was routine for me but a life experience the people I stopped would never forget. They would clearly remember every detail and nuance, either real or imagined.

Back in those days we performed our duties in a very well balanced circle of cause and effect. Aggressive traffic enforcement led to orderly traffic movement and reduced collision statistics. It also offered an added bonus in that everyone who sees a traffic stop collaterally receives a caution. That little shot of adrenaline reminds every passing motorist of the value of prudent driving.

My police agency also benefited by learning the name of the person driving the vehicle and the time and location of the stop. Today some might call this the only legitimate "carding" program, since most criminals drive.

The Toronto Police, and many other police agencies as of late, do not get it. It's apparently a revelation that cars are among the biggest status symbols for criminals. They drive city and country roads plying their trade, looking for opportunities. Fortunately for police, few criminals bother to learn much about the Highway Traffic Act.

Many, many years ago the Toronto Police understood and practiced the concepts of traffic control and enforcement. Twenty per cent of Toronto officers worked in dedicated traffic units equipped with a full measure of services designed to control everything that walked, stalked or rolled between the curbs. They ensured orderly movement of traffic using a variety of measures and strategies.

Beginning about 30 years ago management began eying traffic officers as a potential source to bolster numbers in the general patrol and response sectors. The new focus was on the property lines of every house, factory, building and shopping centre. This was where the action was, it was felt, and the change was a magic bullet to both reduce crime and trim budgets. The disingenuous rationale was that now every officer could write tickets between alarm and domestic dispute calls. Dedicated traffic units were disbanded and the members sprinkled among the great unwashed.

The effects of these three decades of neglect are now becoming clear. Toronto roads are more clogged than ever. There are more collisions than officers can deal with and pedestrian fatalities are also increasing. There is also an alarming increase in violent crime. A strategy of "randomly" stopping people on the street to obtain names and addresses, without just cause, has now exploded into an irreversible downward slide in police effectiveness throughout the city.

Management has now decided not to dispatch an officer to investigate collisions with property damage or "minor" personal injury where a person is not immediately taken to hospital. It's not clear how to determine if an injury is minor. People unsure are advised to call dispatch, who will screen calls over the phone to determine if an officer is required. Essentially a telepathic diagnosis.

This means a further reduction in the basic principles of traffic enforcement and bad driving deterrence. There is not a glimmer of understanding that organized traffic enforcement not only reduces collisions but reveals who is driving and the company they keep.

In their zeal to free-up officers for other calls Toronto police have forgotten the vulnerability people feel at a traffic collision. It's a foreign world that once was made easier by the attendance of the asphalt referee; someone who brings order to the chaos and clears up a traffic snarl full of frustrated motorists. A well attended accident scene makes every officer shine, earning the admiration of motorists far better than fuzzy animals or cop cartoon characters in a hundred parades.

Top Toronto police managers are currently chasing a downward spiral into oblivion. Getting back to a proper sense of strategic traffic operations will solve a myriad of problems.



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AFFORDABLE EXCELLENCE



Articulating the future of public safety



by *Edgar A. MacLeod*

Sustainability. Affordability. Effectiveness. Public trust. Responsibility. Excellence.

These themes have circulated in discussions about public safety for more than a decade. Canadians want them all and voice this expectation in an especially raw tone in the aftermath of tragic natural and human incidents.

First responders are on the front lines, rushing in to serve and protect. Behind them are others who share responsibility for public safety: community members, public and private institutions, interest groups and multiple orders of government.

Countless post-incident reviews, coroners' reports and commissions of inquiry confirm the need to integrate policy, knowledge, resources, practice and expertise — and contain costs.

Critical analyses in Canada, the US and Europe call for change.

Western democracies seek to build

trust and legitimacy of police and other public safety bodies, establish clear policy and oversight mechanisms and enhance community connections as the first step in preventing disorder, crime and terrorism.

These objectives can be achieved even with current fiscal constraints, stresses The Canadian Centre of Public Safety Excellence (CCPSE), at the Atlantic Police Academy (APA) of Holland College (HC) in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

The centre is inspired by the current opportunity to transform important elements of the public safety universe. Affordable excellence is within reach.

“Public safety” is a fairly new term which captures a broad-ranging, complex and multi-dimensional concept.

It means protecting individuals from personal threats where they live, work, worship, learn and play — often from the people in their lives. It means preventing and responding to a wide variety of incidents in public spaces, from natural settings to urban spaces and areas that support infrastructure.

It means managing the movement and activities of those in criminal justice institutions, for the protection of themselves and others. It means responding to disasters that threaten lives and property, from house fires to terrorist attacks.

The stakes are high. The taxpayer demands value for money and has little tolerance for waste in times of economic stress and insecurity.

Governments demand results linked to expenditures and investments, and are hard pressed to manage debt and deficits.

Citizens demand accountability and transparency and desire meaningful input into policy and procedure. Many eyes (and recording devices) are fixed on those who make decisions and carry out operations.

Debate rages on whether society is willing to sacrifice humanity in the quest for safety and security. CCPSE believes we can harness the best knowledge, resources and determination to achieve both.

The overall objective in reaching a state of public safety excellence is preventing



crime and disorder and responding to public safety threats by using cost-manageable techniques that integrate and exploit systems and technology, increase public confidence, minimize harm and maximize effectiveness.

This complex environment presents challenges for those who educate, train and prepare first responders. CCPSE is meeting these challenges on several fronts through its five programs.

Graduates of the basic firefighting program are accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Their course certificate is recognized by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC).

Conservation enforcement is offered to qualified forestry, wildlife, fishery and environmental technicians and graduates of a recognized renewal resource program.

The correctional officer program — for those who monitor, supervise and interact with incarcerated offenders — covers supervision of inmate movement both in and outside the institution.

The sheriff and public safety officer program is designed for municipal peace officers, highway safety and by-law enforcement officers.

Police science (cadet) program graduates are ready to be hired as police constables.

The centre is serious about applying the concept of integration in all facets of its work.

At the organizational level, it benefits from its position within the APA and HC, enjoying a robust collaboration with other training and academic institutions.

Its own staff complement is talented and respected, integrating external experts into the in-house structure when required. Most notably, the centre draws upon public safety

professionals to offer practical experience and insights.

The centre is committed to accessing and using existing resources, facilities and infrastructure available at the APA and HC in the most efficient and effective way. It is located in Slemon Park, which is managed by a Crown corporation that holds the former RCAF Station Summerside assets,

including an airfield, firing ranges and training facilities for scenario-based exercises, driving, defensive tactics and others.

The centre is expanding the use of expensive modern simulation technology, which becomes less costly per unit when made more widely available.

Police agencies are not the only beneficiaries. Clients in other programs also use it

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so it is not left sitting idle. Program sessions are staggered to ensure that APA residential and teaching facilities are fully occupied as much as possible.

This model represents the integration of physical plant and administrative functions of several separate but linked entities, without duplication of effort or expenditure. It also allows the CCPSE to gain access to resource personnel and bricks and mortar facilities on a cost efficient, as-needed basis.

At the policy level, a strong and growing research stream from the academic world feeds into high standard curriculum development, an ever-green approach to course content and direct support to the educational mandate. This is a two-way street, with practitioners proposing areas that require further academic attention.

Policy is informed from other sources and with respect for Canada's demographic reality and history. For example, the decision to focus on First Nation public safety concerns has led to the creation of a culturally-relevant program and an enhanced relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

Similarly, the judgmental use of force training has been expanded to include approaches to situations where mental health

issues may be a factor. There is truly an integration of knowledge from many sources, resulting in a learning environment enriched by and enriching to participants.

The centre stands apart from many other training establishments in the way its programs are financed. Clients are funded either by their home agencies or self-funded if registered in the police science program.

Home agencies economize by using the centre for training rather than developing their own programs. Potential employers of police science graduates receive fully-trained cadets rather than hiring recruits who subsequently must be trained at police agency expense.

At the educational level, the centre is applying an approach that integrates skill-based competencies with an academic program developed by in-house curriculum specialists in collaboration with public safety agencies. The five on-the-ground programs currently offered meet, exceed and in some cases set the most stringent industry standards.

The basic firefighting program, for example, has been established in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 for fire service

professional qualifications. Standards are maintained and constantly improved through regular, real-time interaction with Canadian and US members of the State and Provincial Police Academies Directors, an international association that promotes collaboration around training standards.

All programs are delivered by experienced staff in state-of-the-art facilities. Clients engage in creative problem-solving and interactive sessions designed to replicate real life scenarios and problems.

Self-assessment against rigorous standards encourages independent learning, skills refinement and continuing professional development, as clients understand their individual and collective responsibilities for public safety and can identify areas for continued enhancement of skills and knowledge.

Striving for excellence may seem to be a bold step at a time when "good enough" seems to prevail. The CCPSE is founded on the conviction that excellence is attainable and affordable. Why would Canadians settle for less?

Chief Edgar A. MacLeod, LL.D (HC), COM, is the Director of the Atlantic Police Academy. Visit www.ccpse.ca for more information on the Canadian Centre of Public Safety Excellence.

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS

Preventing suicide among first responders



by Christine Jackson

“Have you ever thought about taking your own life?” It’s a shocking question but if you know someone in crisis, asking it might just save their life.

The Canadian Police Knowledge Network, in collaboration with York Regional Police (YRP) and the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), is offering a new training course to raise awareness about suicide and mental health among police and first responders.

Suicide awareness and prevention is designed to help first responders recognize suicide risk and understand how to support mental health and well-being in the workplace. Development of this course was funded, in part, by the Motorola Solutions Foundation.

“Overcoming the stigma of a mental illness or problem is the greatest barrier to officers getting the help they need,” says Sgt. Beth Milliard of the YRP Peer Support Unit and subject matter expert for the course.

“In a culture that can view itself as bulletproof, asking for help, or even acknowledging that you need it, is often viewed as a sign of weakness. In fact, it’s the bravest thing a person can do.”

The reality is this: the suicide rate among police officers is two to three times higher than the general population. Whether it’s the result of a single traumatic incident

or the effect of stress accumulated over the course of a career, police and other first responders are more susceptible to mental health problems which, if left untreated, can lead to harmful behaviours or suicide.

The MHCC is leading several initiatives to raise awareness and action on mental health issues in policing. It knows this course will create an opportunity for open and honest dialogue on mental well-being and raise awareness about suicide.

“First responders, by their very nature, are fixers who are trained, ready and willing to help others,” says Ed Mantler, MHCC Vice President of Programs and Priorities. “It can be a much different story when it comes to their personal well-being. Reducing stigma, increasing resilience and educating the people around them, such as supervisors, colleagues, family, and friends, are vital tools in preventing harm.”

Assessing someone’s risk of suicide is not always easy, but there may be warning signs from those experiencing suicidal thoughts. For example, significant changes in disposition (e.g. sad, angry or numb and emotionless), a withdrawal from social situations, increased consumption of alcohol or drugs or changes in sleep or appetite are just a few indicators of someone in crisis.

As difficult as it may be to broach the subject, approaching a person and asking

if they are contemplating suicide can often be a source of relief to someone suffering in silence. It can be the first — and crucial — step to turning the tide and helping that person get the help they need.

Ultimately, everyone has a role to play in mental health. Taking regular stock of your own psychological well-being can help diffuse stress from building up over time. Recognizing the signs of crisis and intervening when you suspect a colleague might be in trouble, or reaching out to professionals to get that person help, is a key line of defence.

Agencies must ensure employees are aware that mental health resources are available to them and encourage their use.

“We need to get to a place where mental health issues are viewed and treated the same as any other physical injury. We assess it. We treat it,” says Milliard. “The stigma associated with mental health is a wall — we need to tear it down.”

The Suicide Awareness and Prevention online training course is offered at no cost to all Canadian first responders, including police, fire, paramedics and corrections personnel, until June 30, 2016. A French language version, sponsored by MHCC, will be released this summer.

Visit www.cpkn.ca/course_suicide_awareness_prevention to learn more or to register.



Quanto's Law recognizes the sacrifices of service dogs

by Clair Seyler (with files from Blue Line News Week)

Paul Joseph Vukmanich was fleeing police in October 2013 when he repeatedly stabbed and killed Quanto, an Edmonton Police service dog handled by Cst. Matt Williamson. Officers had set the German Shepherd loose after Vukmanich crashed a stolen car and ran.

Vukmanich eventually pleaded guilty to six charges, including animal cruelty and flight from police, and was sentenced to 28 months. Police complained that the strongest criminal charge they could lay was cruelty to an animal.

The federal government promised to introduce a law to protect police animals. A private member's bill to amend the Criminal Code was brought before the House of Commons and 'Quanto's Law' was passed in the spring of 2015. Anyone convicted of intentionally killing a service animal can now face up to five years in jail.

"The service that our dogs and service animals in general are capable of providing is really remarkable," said Edmonton Police Canine Unit Acting S/Sgt. Adam Segin. "It's nice that there's now this formal recognition of their service and how valuable it is."

Former Multiculturalism Minister Tim Uppal joined Edmonton police officers last July to officially mark the enactment of the new law.

"This sends a strong message to anyone who injures or kills a service animal in the

line of duty will be met with very serious consequences," Uppal said. "They're there to protect us and we should be protecting them."

At the time he killed Quanto Vukmanich was on parole conditions for a series of taxicab robberies in Thunder Bay. Edmonton Police found him driving a stolen vehicle. He refused to stop and when the vehicle lost a tire, fled on foot. A short chase ended with Vukmanich stabbing Quanto numerous times.

The death led to an outpouring of grief and support from across the country and a push to give special protection to working animals.

Quanto's Law includes a mandatory minimum sentence of six months for those convicted of killing a service animal, which includes animals used by police, the Canadian Forces and people with disabilities.

Vukmanich's lengthy criminal history includes convictions for extortion, threatening, armed robbery, aggravated assault and driving and property offences. He once stabbed a man three times in the chest. Another time, armed with a hatchet, he robbed a cabbie while a woman held a knife against the driver's throat.

The parole board documents say Vukmanich has a "significant propensity toward violence" when under the influence of alcohol, but also tends to make poor decisions and acts impulsively even when sober.

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) D/Chief Danielle Campbell, the force's first female dog handler, said Quanto "most definitely" saved the lives of officers at the scene.

Making a police service dog

Training a dog and handler team for law enforcement purposes is an in-depth process that takes several years.

To become an EPS handler an officer must express interest and arrange for quarry orientation through the canine unit, then take the canine quarry course. Once completed, the officer is part of the volunteer quarry team while remaining in their current non-canine, full-time position.

The quarry experience

The term quarry means anything pursued or hunted, however quarry training involves more than pursuing a criminal. It covers track laying, hiding in buildings and compounds, putting out scented articles for the established dog and handler teams and apprehending criminals.

When quarrying, an officer will wear a 50 lb. protective suit while taking part in any bite-and-grip training exercises. This is where the dogs are trained to latch onto a suspect's arm and not let go until the suspect obeys the handler's commands.

After quarry member have dedicated hundreds of hours of their own time to training, they must complete a two-week puppy imprinter course, an obstacle course and final interview before joining the canine unit succession list.

"Becoming a dog handler is definitely a marathon, not a sprint," says EPS Canine Unit Sgt. Adam Segin.



Const. Wade Eastman and PSD Evan

“It’s a huge commitment. You need to love the environment, have strong character traits, be self-motivated and display a desire to learn.”

On average, 30 quarries are active at any given time. Many people cannot maintain the time commitment required, so only those who quarry regularly over several years make it through to the selection process.

After spending three-and-a-half years quarrying and 18 months training with his dog Evan, Cst. Wade Eastman, a handler since September 2014, sums up his journey so far.

“To be able to work the streets with my own dog has been a huge accomplishment, especially after the time and energy invested leading up to the dog master training course,” explains Eastman. “Evan and I are now out pursuing bad guys together. Just when the suspects think they might get away, my dog gives us a chance to make the arrest. There’s nothing like it.”

Dog training process

The EPS selects dogs from a working-dog breeder in Canada or abroad based on their working pedigree and expected work ethic.

Dogs arrive at EPS between the ages of two and 18 months and each is immediately matched with a handler from the succession list.

The handler/dog training process begins immediately. The handler takes their dog home to start working on basic obedience, socialization, bite-and-grip fundamentals and the tracking and development of prey-drive, which is the dog’s willingness to chase and not give up.

While police service dogs (PSD) and handlers train throughout their (approximate) seven-year canine career, the early training process is crucial in determining if the dog will

succeed. The canine unit finds a home for any dog that doesn’t seem suited for policing and provides the officer with a new dog.

After 18 months of training, the dog and handler should be well established in obedience, tracking, apprehension and searches. If successful, they proceed to the 16-week dog master training course. If they pass they become an official full-time canine unit member and graduate to the streets of Edmonton.

“An ordinary dog wouldn’t last long in this program,” says Segin. “The successful dogs are extraordinary and have the dedication and work ethic of a very high-quality working dog. “So what makes a dog extraordinary? It

is neutral to environmental exposures such as slippery floors, loud noises, stairs and crowds. The dog’s drive is stronger than its nerves, and the handler is the dog’s whole world.”

Three PSD teams graduated from the dog master training course late in 2015, making a total of 14 dog/handler teams currently operating within EPS. The unit has two teams preparing to start courses in April, including the second female handler in EPS history.

Clair J. Seyler is a communications advisor in the EPS Corporate Communications Section. Contact: clair.seyler@edmontonpolice.ca

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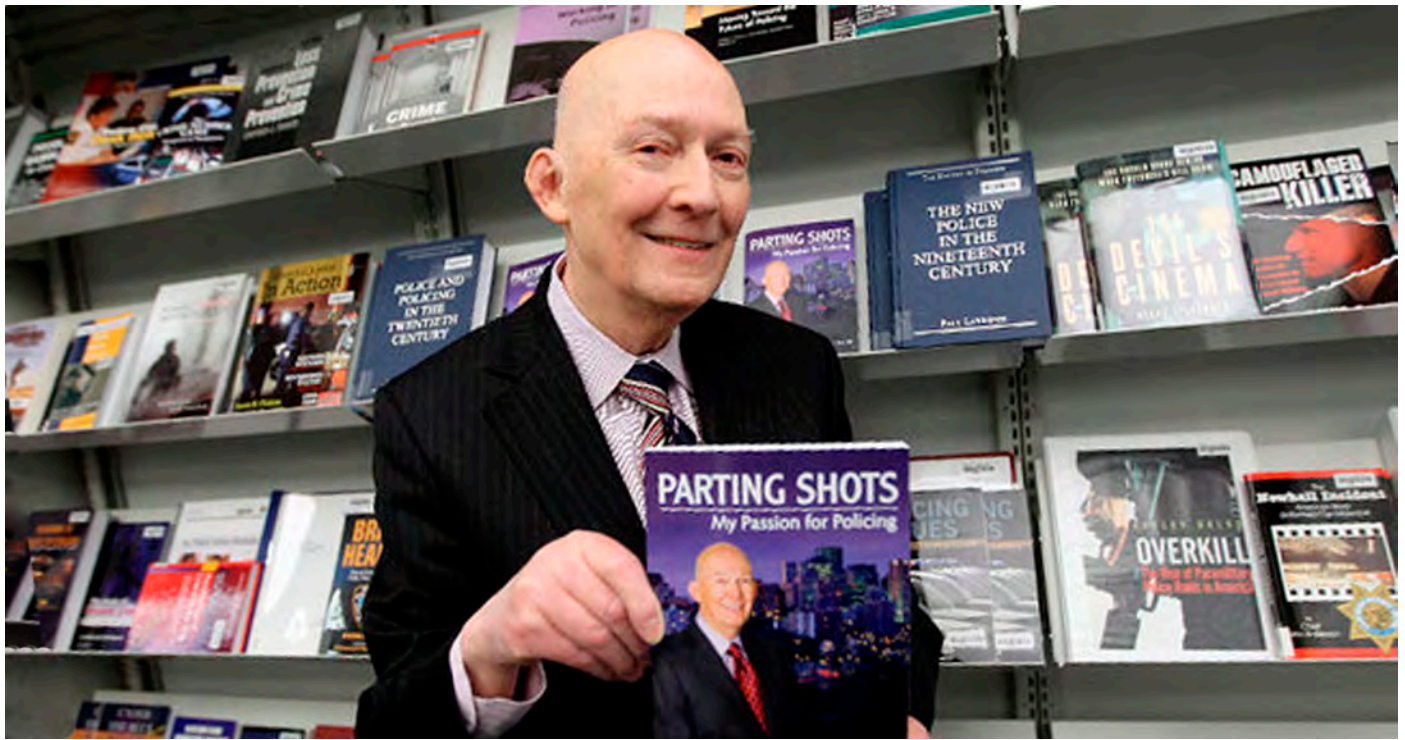
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Robert F. Lunney – A true passion for policing

by Tom Rataj

It has been about 20 years since Bob Lunney began lending a hand, and a lot of advice, to *Blue Line Magazine*. As of March this year, however, he is hanging up his spurs to everything police. It is only appropriate that we should run a profile on a man who has cast such a long shadow in Canadian policing.

Robert F. Lunney began his policing career with the RCMP in Winnipeg in 1953. Climbing up through the ranks, he retired in 1974 as a superintendent after working various roles in southern Ontario, the Yukon, Alberta and Ottawa.

That was just the first chapter of his policing career.

Lunney was hired in 1974 as the new Edmonton police chief and stayed in that city until 1987.

One might expect that after 34 years in policing, including a now relatively uncommon single 13 year tenure as chief, he would have hung up his badge for good.

Travelling back to his native Winnipeg, he was hired as the Commissioner of Protection, Parks and Culture, overseeing the police, fire and ambulance services, parks and recreation and the cultural grants departments from 1987 to 1990.

Not done with policing, he continued his journey east to the west Toronto area to become chief of Peel Regional Police (PRP) in 1990.

Lunney finally retired from public service in 1997 but that was not the end of his contributions to policing. For the next 18

years he travelled further afield, working as a policing consultant in the United States, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Hong Kong and Jamaica. He also regularly contributed to *Blue Line Magazine* during this time, acting as the Police Management Editor. In 2012 he published his book *Parting Shots — My Passion for Policing*.

To really understand and appreciate Lunney's career and contributions to policing, one has to dig deeper into his impressive legacy. He truly is a visionary leader, managing to really understand and clearly articulate important high-level thinking while still getting all the daily operational work done.

Reflecting on this in the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) newsletter in 1995 he wrote: "I have a friend who claims all administrators can be divided into three classes — architects, builder and maintenance men. During my career, I have tried to be a bit of an architect but mostly I am, I hope, a builder. There is a real satisfaction in working with others to improve the quality of police service for the betterment of society."

His status as a builder is well supported by a string of awards and recognition for numerous initiatives, many well ahead of their time. Although he was often the chief, he always ensured that he pushed his people into the spotlight so they too shared the credit.

Improving the quality of police services has been a lifelong concern. Lunney was the principal proponent of accreditation for police services, and was directly or indirectly involved in accrediting five Canadian police services,

including Edmonton, Winnipeg and Peel.

He was PRP chief in 1995 when the service was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Quality Institute (now Excellence Canada) and the Weber-Seavey Award for Quality in Law Enforcement (presented by IACP and Motorola). Lunney was the first Canadian to win the PERF Leadership Award for Innovative Police Practices.

Also during this time, he won the Herman Goldstein Award for Problem-Oriented Policing (sponsored by PERF) and a certificate of merit (in the quality government category) in the Canada Awards for Excellence competition sponsored by the Toronto-based National Quality Institute.

Some of these awards recognized innovative new programs and initiatives Lunney spearheaded that have become standards in policing in Canada and internationally. In 1991 while leading PRP he introduced a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) program, as well as a comprehensive child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence initiative.

Always willing to share his insights and vision he was the Canadian representative on the executive committee of the IACP in April 1996 and president of the CACP for 1984/1985.

Much of his insight and vision is the stuff many police officers only learn through trial and error in the later parts of their careers, and in hindsight wish they had understood and implemented in their early days.

"From the moment of accepting the oath



of office,” he wrote in the April 2013 edition of *Blue Line*, “every act performed, every decision made, every personal conclusion filed away composes the sum of individual worthiness, constitutes the reputation as a person and a police officer, and ultimately is enfolded in personal character.”

Interestingly with all the current bad press and public anti-police rhetoric, including the Black Lives Matters movement, his insight and excellent advice on the matter goes back to the December, 1999 issue of *Blue Line*.

“Probity, integrity, and accountability are half the accounting. The second half is fair treatment and respect for the humanity of all persons and considerate, measured judgment in the application of powers of arrest, search and seizure and the use of force. When you can control the consequences by tempering your own behaviour, the choice seems obvious.”

So much of the current bad press and anti-police sentiment stems directly from the failure to abide by this kind of thinking — and with video cameras now everywhere, failures are easily documented for all to see.

“The public expects the police to set high standards of truthfulness and honour,” Lunney noted, again in the December, 1999 issue, “while demonstrating a devotion to duty. They like to see evidence of qualities they can respect and admire. They also expect that the police will be responsible and accountable in their use of the powers and authorities provided by law. Nothing could disaffect the public more than persistent evidence of abuse or misuse of authority.”

He was well ahead of the curve on another current hot topic — police budgets. In the year that the Toronto Police Service budget exceeded the \$1 billion mark for the first time, Lunney wrote, again in *Blue Line* (June/July, 1998 issue):

“If policing is to survive as a full-service public institution of government, methods must be found to reduce the costs of labour. The challenge of delivering on demands for economy and efficiency must be met on its own terms.”

From his final post in March 2016, on his “Parting Shots” web site (<http://www.rla-robertlunneyassociates.com>), he talks about the governance of the economics of policing.

“A combination of organizational reform and efficiency measures is surely within the capabilities of police leadership everywhere. A failure to respond will trigger intervention certain to result in remedies devised by those with less knowledge and appreciation of police imperatives. Mistakes and misunderstandings are sure to happen.”

PERF President and NYPD Commissioner

William Bratton summed up Lunney’s career very succinctly.

“Chief Lunney has shown a consistent, career-long interest in improving policing by effectively using new technology, working side-by-side with community residents and dealing with tough issues. He has proven himself to be a true leader in policing.”

Tom Rataj is a associate publisher for *Blue Line Magazine* and can be contacted at Tom@blueline.ca

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POLICE JUDO

PART THREE

Where Realism Meets the Road

by *Toby Hinton and Al Arsenault*

Judo founder Jigoro Kano took the unsafe and destructive techniques meant for the battlefield from the plethora of jujutsu styles that existed in 1882. He added mats on which to practice, thereby making judo training safe for everyone.

Kano would likely applaud our removing the non-sporting and potentially injurious elements of judo and adapting them for police use in the no referees or mats venue of the street, especially in light of his precept of “mutual welfare and benefit.”

With Police Judo we have effectively transferred a level of care out of the training hall and onto the street. After all, no one deserves to be needlessly or roughly manhandled by police, especially the drugged, drunk, enraged or mentally ill, who are more often fighting themselves. The more dispassionate an officer can be when applying force, the better the outcome at all levels. That said, police are not paid to be punching bags or sacrificial lambs. Using force is clearly required.

There has never been a greater need for accountability in police use of force, which is so often captured on video. There was no harsher testing grounds for using force than in the relatively violent and lawless streets of Vancouver’s Skid Road.

The goal of Police Judo is to train our students on how to safely take into custody those who have little regard for themselves or the officers lawfully depriving them of their liberty. As with any difficult job, you can get it done in a more efficient and professional manner if you have the right tools. We credit our well-stocked tactical tool box for having maximal effect while using minimal effort and destructiveness to affect our purpose.

No officer is beyond the touch of evil but if one follows good tactics, has great technique and stays focused, the job can be a relatively low-risk profession (at least in Canada, where there is far less gun play!).

Street smarts

There is ‘dojo smart’ and ‘street smart’ private training available for police before and after they graduate. Realistic (non-sport) training is rather uncommon. Many non-police martial arts instructors haven’t had to deal with the tough and crazy people who routinely confront officers.

As police, we have all experienced hairy situations and many of us are still alive — and even sport all of our teeth! We have all had our share of lucky breaks but the rest comes from using superior tactics and techniques. Sadly, some of our brothers and sisters never live to tell their tales. There’s not much you can do if

a bullet has your name on it. You can, and we say must, deal with the ones marked “To whom it may concern.” This is accomplished through diligent, long-term and realistic training.

We began shunning traditional clubs as we grew in experience as beat cops, preferring to look for critical innovations and practical applications within the various martial arts we were involved in. Police Judo is not a martial art that requires the student to adapt classical dojo technique for use in the midst of a street brawl.

We have made the modifications for you. We found ourselves tripping over traditionalism, convention and impracticality, much inbred by the rules of sport and taught by instructors who hadn’t regularly dealt with violent offenders within the guidelines of the National Use of Force Framework. They could surmise or extrapolate about the nature of street violence but few had ever tested their skills and techniques on sweaty, bloody, dirty, infectious, chemically-crazed, mentally ill, street-wise, hardened criminals — or even angry drunks, for that matter.

Few have had to deal with drug-addicted people who had little to lose by biting off a piece of flesh, pushing you down stairs or knifing or shooting you just because you were doing your job. Fewer still have had to justify their use of force later in a court of law.



Realism vs idealism

So how does that single one-shot, one-kill, punch to the head work again after you've broken a tooth with your now-busted knuckles, possibly rendering your hand incapable of manipulating your desperately needed gun out of its level-three security holster?

How painful is that infectious bite to your forearm when you have a suspect in a head lock? How debilitating is it when an unseen buddy bottles your head from behind while in that dark and unfriendly laneway? How badly do you "blow a chip" when you get spat on while loading a drunk into the wagon? How does it feel to be shot through a door, swarmed by assailants or get run over by a car because some criminals had outstanding warrants or were doing something illegal that would see them jailed?

Maybe you lose teeth from a head butt that you never saw coming or break a leg when pushed in front of a moving car by a person in handcuffs. Over and above surviving, for those engaging in physical training, how does your current martial arts schooling or fitness regimen get you closer to putting handcuffs on a tough guy?

More questions worth pondering should include how 'dojo smarts' (and the consequences of 'losing') stack up against the ugly realities encountered on the street. How has your training prepared you to deal with the adrenaline rush, get you back into the fight when injured or stare down and handle the ugly face of unfettered (and at times, unimaginable) violence? What drill is the 'reptilian brain' screaming at you to do under high stress? What happened to your fine and complex motors skills when you needed them the most — to save your own life or that of a hapless victim?

The world of sport is a fantastic pursuit for those not putting themselves in harm's way on the street. We are advising trainers to consider preparing police recruits and officers for the

projected and guaranteed violent eventualities. Functional and tactically sound techniques and drills, not 'art' and 'sport' forms of fighting, are the much-needed remedies for violence.

Teaching 'sport fighting' and then insisting that students somehow make the requisite adaptations to gain physical control over criminal suspects may leave them a little unprepared to enter the law enforcement arena. In reality,

hard arrests are often done under extreme stress and hopefully within the bounds, or legal parameters, of the Criminal Code.


Police need street-proven combative and controlling forms of pugilism steeped in practicality and legal reasonableness. Tools forged from the fires of reality-based practical training allow officers the best chance of ethically handling the situations that they will likely encounter on the street. It's easy to be ethical when you are in control.

No ref, no rules

The difference between sport and street is huge. Some say that the Ultimate Fight Championship (UFC) is tantamount to a street fight. Although the players are extremely fit and often talented individuals, these modern gladiators rely on rules and referees to enforce them for their 'survival' in the ring. There are currently 31 rules and faults in UFC matches prohibiting eye gouging, biting, head butting and fish-hooking, not to mention requiring the wearing of protective gloves, adhering to weight classes and only permitting one-on-one contests.

None of these rules apply to a true street fight, where an offender's objective may very well be to kill or grievously injure an officer or civilian. Deadly force may be used in these cases to stop such a lethal threat. If there were no enforceable rules in the UFC then few would want to enter what could essentially be a death match.

Street fights are not determined by those



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"I would high recommend *Ethics for Police Leaders* to anyone working in policing, or any law enforcement agency. It challenges current ideas about ethics, and introduces new ideas. An invaluable tool in working through ethical dilemmas is provided and students are able to practice using the Framework for Ethical Decision Making. Although a lot of work, any student of police leadership will find this well worth their time."

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who accumulate the most ‘points’ or on decisions by referees (or judges).

The outcome is the result of one party conceding defeat (which may not guarantee the fight ends) or both parties withdrawing (which still may not ensure the fight is done if others wish to get involved). Often a fight ends when one party cannot defend through injury, incompetence or intervention by other parties (friends, concerned citizens or persons in authority like the police). Some fights end because one or both parties are killed, especially when weapons are introduced into the fracas.

Every single day police officers collectively enter a ruthless arena where opponents may respect no rules of morality nor adhere to any kind of ethical use-of-force guidelines. Police (and some criminals) wear body armour to help minimize the deadly threats posed to their vital organs by knives and firearms.

Police officers must carry weapons and use back-up officers, if available, to help control extremely violent offenders. They must use reasonable force under very stressful do-or-die conditions requiring split-second critical analyses and action.

Physical altercations are subject to long microscopic dissections in criminal and civil courts and internal reviews and seemingly endless one-sided media hype. What type of force was used and was it done in good faith? Is the amount of force used objectively reasonable, subjectively justifiable and obviously necessary? Officers can be sent to jail for their actions so articulating how and why force was used is extremely important.

Role of sport

We know that functional fitness and physical literacy is critical to develop basic movements. A foundation in traditional judo basics and movement (or sport and athleticism in general) will assist with the layering of Police Judo tactics and techniques.

However, it is important to recognize that the purpose of a sport-based model (often focused on competition) is different than a training-based model like Police Judo (focused on preparing students to use force as a part of their job).

However, these are not mutually exclusive domains, and the law enforcement officer with a classical background in traditional judo can easily adopt and implement a recreational Police Judo program for training.

We find it helpful when teaching to distinguish between a sport and a law enforcement technique. If we are to believe that an individual will perform under pressure as they train, we want to ensure that we provide students with blueprinting available and accessible under stress. Techniques, drills and the training program need to be regularly reviewed to ensure the correct balance between developing basic movement and judo skills. The added ability to fuse force options techniques and carry the training through to an arrest and control conclusion is a major strength of our style.

Without the requisite non-competitive



judo skill development, breakfall competency and basic movement proficiency, one runs the risk of creating a “fight club” environment where injuries will probably occur and membership will likely shrink. A regular canvassing of students involved with Police Judo training finds that fitness is one of the top priorities, and as a result, the workouts need to be physically challenging while keeping the training environment at low-risk for injury. Developing a strong judo base will reduce injuries in training and on the street.

Mutual welfare and benefit

Police Judo emphasizes Kano’s philosophy of “mutual welfare and benefit” (respect) by caring for one’s partner in training. As the student’s judo skills develop, respective tactical skills will be more surely acquired and reasonably applied.

A strong foundation in judo also helps provide a template for belt grading and promotion within the style. This kind of extrinsic motivator helps retain students over and above reaping the obvious benefits of developing a functional form of fitness.

Indeed, establishing a healthy martial arts-based lifestyle is very desirable for the law enforcement officer for a multitude of reasons, including keeping fighting fit.

One can assume that there are no rules when training in Police Judo but we do respect the obvious limitations of not hurting your training partner. For an extra dose of realism, you can stick your fingers into your training partner’s eyes but don’t push them in too far and be extra careful with those wearing contacts! Pull that pony tail! Watch out for biters!

The streets can be too unforgiving to be careless about how you ‘do the drill’ even with something as simple as standing up in a tactical manner. Focus on developing training which will allow you to take the least risky, most effective and ethically correct actions that can

be done under dire circumstances. Showing each other’s failures on the mat will pay off when techniques are executed effectively on the street. Complacency in training, or a lack of street-proofing, could cost you or someone else their life.

Functional fitness

It has been said that the best educated person is the one who knows the most about the world in which they live. Many post-secondary institutions are churning out graduate after graduate in Criminology and Police Studies programs with little to no emphasis on developing basic physical literacy relating to use of force. Functional fitness and developing skills one can draw on during the adrenaline rush in the heat of battle demands proper training.

Police Judo should not be regarded only as a certification course but rather a lifestyle. By introducing training early, developing it as a low risk and life-long recreational training program, our hope is to expand the reach of Kano’s philosophy of mutual benefit and welfare into the world of law enforcement, pre-career, on the job and even into retirement.

Al Arsenault is a former Vancouver police officer and a co-founded Odd Squad Productions. He currently specializes in teaching police combatives through his co-founding of Police Judo in 2010, is writing a book on Police Judo and teaching the essentials of this new martial art to police across North America. He can be contacted at oddsquadder@gmail.com



Toby Hinton A 23-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department, Sergeant Toby Hinton heads up Squad 5 of the Beat Enforcement Team. Patrolling the streets of the Downtown Eastside on foot, Toby keeps close ties with a community that is not always easy to serve and protect. He can be contacted at oddsquadder@gmail.com



Police strength down for fourth straight year

The number of police officers in Canada edged downward in 2015 yet again, according to new numbers from Statistics Canada.

On the snapshot date of May 15, 2015, there were 68,777 police officers in Canada, 29 fewer than in the previous year. The rate of police strength declined 0.9% from the previous year to 192 officers per 100,000 population. It may not be a huge drop, but it does represent the fourth annual decrease in a row. It's also a reversal of the the upward trend Canadian police forces saw between 1999 and 2010.

The rate of police strength fell in every province in 2015 with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the rate was stable (-0.4%), and Alberta, where it increased slightly (+0.5%).

In 2015, five of 49 police services serving a population of 100,000 or more reported an increase in their rate of police strength. They included three British Columbia communities, Surrey, Burnaby and Langley Township, as well as Lévis, Quebec and Red Deer, Alberta.

For the fourth consecutive year, the proportion of officers aged 40 and older increased, rising from 50 per cent in 2012 to 54 per cent in 2015. According to the Police Administration Survey, five per cent of police officers in 2015 were 55 years or older. However, eligibility

to retire may not be based solely on age and requirements may vary by police service.

In the calendar year or fiscal year 2014/2015, 11 per cent of all police officers in Canada were eligible for retirement, but three per cent, or 1,741 officers, opted to retire. Those who did retire accounted for 70 per cent of all police officers who departed from their service.

The Codiac Region, or Moncton, saw its police strength drop by 5.8 per cent, year-over-year, the second largest fall among the 49 communities studied by StatsCan. The community's force also has 22.8 per cent of its officers eligible for retirement.

It's a similar situation in Winnipeg, where 23.9 per cent of the force could retire and the city's police strength fall five per cent.

The 28,368 civilians employed by police services on May 15, 2015, accounted for 29 per cent of total police personnel. The proportion of civilians in policing has gradually increased since data were first collected in 1962. The more recent increase in civilian staff has mainly been driven by the growing number of management/professionals employed by police services.

Year-end operating expenditures for police services in Canada in 2014/2015 totalled \$13.9 billion in current dollars. These expenditures

comprised salaries and wages (66%), benefits (15%), and other operating expenditures (19%). When adjusting for inflation, police spending increased annually from 1997/1998 to 2010/2011.

Since then, police operating expenditures have been relatively stable, and were unchanged in 2014/2015. However, when considering the population of Canada and inflation, policing costs per capita declined 0.9 per cent in 2014/2015. In current dollars, annual police operating expenditures in 2014/2015 totalled \$391 for every Canadian.

Largest Decreases, %

1. Richmond, B.C.: -11.6
2. Codiac Region (Moncton), N.B.: -5.8
3. Coquitlam, B.C.: -5.1
4. Winnipeg, Man.: -5
5. Laval, Que.: -4.6

Largest % of cops eligible for retirement

1. St. John's, N.L.: 33.4
2. Winnipeg, Man.: 23.9
3. Codiac Region (Moncton), N.B.: 22.8
4. Victoria, B.C.: 21
5. Hamilton, Ont.: 20.6

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Sean Kilpatrick --AP

Learn To Live With Terrorism

Focus on defining, mitigating and managing, not elimination

by Valarie Findlay

In these days of sound-bites and quotes, the issue of global terrorism by non-state and state-sympathizers has created conundrums in Western Nations in communicating and devising effective approaches, responses and analyzing causality. We see this in our struggles to augment and institute new legislative powers, military involvement and domestic responses to events that may or may not be terrorist motivated.

As much as we have not eliminated or eradicated crime, we have not and will not be able to eliminate or eradicate terrorism – both being idealized behaviours. We can manage and mitigate the sub-types of terrorism in their respective contexts and settings with active advancement to analyzed definitions and responsible use of terminology. This means replacing the general term of terrorism, and its use for too many events before all of the details are known, with specific, substantially analyzed definitions.

In his book, *Terrorism: How to Respond*, terrorism scholar Richard English pointedly states: “We cannot adequately explain terrorism unless we are precise about what we are seeking to explain.”

This is an excellent summary statement. Realizing that, while vital, this will not happen

overnight as splitting the term into meaningful definitions is difficult and a many layered process — and ‘defining’ and ‘understanding’ are not one and the same.

The current use of the term “terrorism” suffers from a lack of analysis and has resulted in a pejorative word condemning a variety of violent acts by various actors, whose motives are often not fully understood or revealed. Terrorism is as value-laden, loaded and ambiguous as the term “outlaw.” It is for that reason it cannot be referenced as a technical term.

The ambiguity of the word terrorism has led to homogenization of its causes in our public discourse. This has resulted in our lawmakers, and those responsible for enforcement and interdiction, moving further from understanding this complex phenomenon rather than achieving a concerted perspective. While scholars can add a significant level of definition to the term, taking that lead alone, we run into the opposite issue — a granularity that does not resonate with practical application.

For example, terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman has argued that terrorism involves politically motivated or threatened violence “designed to have far-reaching psychological repercussions beyond the immediate victim or target,” carried out by a sub-national or non-state, non-uniformed organization “with an

identifiable chain of command or conspiratorial cell structure” when referencing to non-state or oppositional terrorism.

While this may be academically accurate in some manifestations, it stands to cloud the issue of a practical response and understanding by the general population.

Somewhere between generalization and granularity it becomes necessary to assign context and recognize that terrorism is not a movement but a tactic resulting from a social disruption rooted in political, ideological or cultural ideals. It is multi-factored, multi-causal and categorically diverse in its implementation.

Terrorism is not new and treating it as such only obscures a multifarious term. Emerging in the late 1700s during the French Revolution, the term “terrorism” existed prior to this era and has persisted throughout the centuries to the present day. Providing a definitive foundation will allow for the formulation of effective, long term responses under appropriate circumstances and conditions.

An examination of historical profiles of terrorist groups such as the Irish Republican Army and Al Qaeda reveal distinct differences that indicate individualized responses: the IRA is secular and opposed government and political involvement at the state level but did not target civilians — but there were civilian



casualties as a result of its actions. Al-Qaeda is fundamentalist and targets civilians specifically to achieve its agenda.

The analysis of these observations shed light in defining categorical types of terrorism and add value at the operational and preventative level, more so than an all-encompassing label. Likewise, identifying and critically analyzing the multi-causal and multi-factored nature of terrorism is important in determining patterns of these acts and what is unique in a particular context — which is why dialogue between scholars of multiple disciplines is important.

When considering responses to terrorism and terrorist attacks, we cannot adopt a singular or primary focused response, or one that is reactive, which is precisely why the above analysis is necessary. The context of military response or warfare, while politically powerful, has a limited impact as there are major differences between terrorism and orthodox warfare. Terrorism is not exacted in formal combat between states and it is not governed by the established rules of conventional warfare.

To the antithesis of its intended purpose, terrorists have recognized that provoking military response and militarization has its benefits in deteriorating the “enemy” from a strategic angle and can also result in encouraging a stronger terrorist-sympathetic reaction and aid in recruitment.

Other examples of the response to terrorism have shown ineffectiveness where there is a lack of leadership and public policy, but augmenting the current direction with committed leadership and strong public policy is not enough. Along with the proper explanation of terrorism, definitions and classification of types and instances — the similarities and the differences — are the foundation.

Beyond that, what is required is a balanced strategy that includes integrated and coordinated efforts related to:

- Disruption of financing, recruitment and radicalization;
- Recognizing the power of timely and accurate intelligence gathering and sharing;
- The harmonization of securitization;
- Preventative action with privacy and civil rights;

- Avoiding over-militarization; and
- Maintaining strong credibility in the counter-terror argument by respecting orthodox legal frameworks and a democratized process.

There is no single method nor an all-hazards approach.

Many years ago, terrorist expert Martha Crenshaw stated that “there is no easy solution” with respect to terrorism; this still rings true. However, the quicker we move away from broad-brush terminology, single-cause assumptions and too-narrow responses, the closer we will get to measurable results and resilient levels of security without sacrificing our freedoms.

If we take the opposite action to the points above and the media and politicians continue to generalize terrorism, fighting it with knee-jerk reactions, we risk having no success against terrorist activity.

NEXT MONTH — *Inside Out* — *Stretching the thin blue line even thinner*

Valarie Findlay is a research fellow for the Police Foundation (US) and has more than two decades of senior expertise in developing strategies, frameworks and risk assessment approaches for cyber-security, policing, military and government departments. Contact: vfindlay@humanled.com

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RIDE SAFE TO RIDE AGAIN



Get out and support your 1%er

by Dave Stewart

Okay, now that I have your attention I really don't mean the usual 1%er biker.

Working traffic, I was always the first to legally stop them, find anything I could that was wrong with their bike and the reason the rider was on 'our' roads flaunting club colours.

I'm referring to the one per cent or less of motorcycle riders who work to promote safety in a national program each May. These 'bikers,' a special group of riders and organizations, take part in an awareness program known as "Ride Safe to Ride Again."

This month long program, still under construction as I write, is designed to promote safety both on and off road. It usually kicks off with a meeting with federal ministers in Ottawa, then branches out to all provincial and territorial jurisdictions, with hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts riding out to spread the safety message — a daunting task.

The messages are directed not only to new, inexperienced and returning older riders but, more importantly, to car drivers who treat motorcyclists like road kill. As a rider for many decades I encounter many four wheel drivers each year with non-existent visual skills, except for a constant view of their iPhone as they text or call their BFF. I have also fallen victim to one of the dreaded 'left turning drivers.' Also impaired, this person put my police career on hold for two years by turning into my path.

Why should we be concerned for 'bikers' when hundreds of pedestrians each year walk

blindly out into moving traffic? Recent police enforcement for pedestrian safety is important and more work is needed to prevent these needless deaths — but the increasing number of motorcyclist deaths in recent years has been completely ignored.

Motorcycles represent only about two per cent of all registered motor vehicles on our roads but account for eight per cent of all vehicular road deaths. If this is not enough to justify at least some police education/enforcement action, there is another simple answer.

The majority of these riders are innocent victims. The United Nations has categorized them as "vulnerable road users," similar to pedestrians and cyclists, deserving of special world road safety initiatives for a 10 year period.

I must admit that a minority of riders, either through radical excessive speed and/or alcohol and drug use, can also be Darwinian in nature. I have great sympathy for those who survive these people and feel a sense of failure that I, in previous years of enforcement and with others today, failed to better educate them on how they could prevent their untimely deaths.

It would be foolish to say we can prevent all deaths, however one of the most important police functions is to prevent loss of life — and I contend that road deaths are as important as those caused by firearms or other weapons.

In recent years the importance of traffic services within certain agencies has taken a lower priority due to financial constraints and media attention on 'newer' issues such as race

relations and social unrest.

The safety program planned for this year needs co-operation from many other people and police services to be effective. Last year at least one agency — the Ontario Provincial Police — made an outstanding contribution by staging a day long motorcycle safety event at one of Toronto's largest shopping malls. The event was headed by the prestigious OPP Golden Helmets precision riding team under the leadership of Sgt. Lise Grenier. I hope it becomes an annual event.

The reason why all Canadian police services should get involved in promoting road safety for motorcycles can be found in annual statistics released by Transport Canada (TC) and speciality reports issued by our famous Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF).

I should apologize for using fatality figures as we also need to remember and consider the thousands of riders each year brutally injured by other vehicles. However, as a realist I know that all motorcycle injuries cannot be prevented, but, after testifying several times in Coroners Court and studying the follow-up recommendation of several cases, I believe we owe it to the deceased to do our best to prevent future casualties.

Before entering a traffic safety program you have to research statistics to view the major areas of concern. Canada has a great national motorcycle training program. "Gearing Up" has been run for decades by the Canada Safety Council and emulated by many others in provincial programs. In the vast majority of jurisdictions we also have

adequate graduated licensing laws for new riders to try to prevent collisions and spills during those first inaugural years of riding. We do not need more restrictive laws, we need more effective pro-active enforcement.

The latest TC national figures show 197 riders were killed in 2013, 15 per cent more than the previous year. Of these deaths, 25 (13 per cent) of riders were female, a figure much higher than the proportion of females actually riding.

Age involvement also confirms a recent multi-year OPP regional study of road deaths showing that more middle aged riders are involved in fatal collisions.

TC figures also show middle aged riders accounting for the majority of deaths — 58 per cent were between 30 and 55 years old.

It has been suggested that this is due to riders returning to take up motorcycling again having obtained their 'M' licence many years ago. They want to 'get back in the saddle' without a rider refresher course or re-license restrictions.

Many of the deaths in the OPP study also involved mature males who drank prior to their deaths, even though millions of dollars have been spent on alcohol education. This is especially disconcerting since these males should know that drinking even a little and driving a car is nowhere near the same as operating a two wheeled motor vehicle which demands balance, co-ordination and good judgement while on the road.

Two decades ago riders under 25 were a major concern but they now only account for 13 per cent of deaths and only one was female. This shows a major change in rider demographics and thus our education and enforcement has to change to reflect this.

Other factors have remained relatively unchanged for decades. Forty per cent of deaths involved only the rider, usually by loss of control and/or excessive speeding, the vast majority (31 out of 79) ran off the roadway onto the right shoulder area. Of the remaining multi-vehicle collisions it was no surprise that 40 per cent were due to a vehicle turning left in front of the rider.

A very recent study ¹ by the *Motorcyclists Confederation of Canada (MCC)* found that the overall economic impact of Canada's 772,000 riders was \$2.68 billion in 2014.

A national motorcycle safety strategy published a few years ago had many innovative and progressive ideas to reduce risk. It included many educational and enforcement recommendations but appears to have stalled, perhaps due to inadequate funds or unwilling partners.

Two national rider groups issue annual calls for action and it is hoped that many of those forward looking recommendations will see the light of day, now targeted for the end of 2020.

The three major jurisdictions for motorcycles, and consequently rider deaths, are British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. If

even one jurisdiction and its police agencies enthusiastically work on this safety program, we could change public and police attitudes about road safety.

The only way we can hope to reduce 'left turners' is through better enforcement and education of car drivers. Active, responsible enforcement by police targeting riders who still insist on unnecessary speed and/or drinking and riding will also reduce casualty figures.

More than 40 per cent of all motorcycle fatalities are preventable. Independent motorcycle groups and individuals are working to increase safety but they need police help to make their work effective.

This is also a call to you, the individual police officer who cares about road safety, to help spearhead the work by encouraging your department to have a motorcycle safety program this year. If this fails, as it may well do, you can still help; don't ignore the car driver who turns left in front of you.

If the person did it to you in a car, he/she is likely to do it with me on my bike — and then I may not be here next year to rant about motorcycle safety!

¹ Visit www.motorcycling.ca to learn more.

Dave Stewart is a former police motorcycle trainer with the Toronto Police Service and a founder of the Police Motorcycle Race Team. He may be contacted by email: dstewart@sympatico.ca.

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VETERANS IN CRISIS



A focus on the military member in distress

by Mike Lacroix

A troubled young man was reported in the area of Main Street, Markham in March, 1999 carrying a knife. Police responded in typical fashion and the emergency response unit was dispatched, isolated the individual, contained the event, evacuated the immediate area and attempted to negotiate with lethal and less lethal options at the ready.

The young man refused to drop the knife and the event seemed to be headed towards a suicide-by-cop scenario. He was hit in the chest with an Arwen round and dosed with Mark 9 OC. ERU members took the man to the ground while he was distracted; he was cuffed and taken to the station.

ERU officers then moved on to their next call knowing that they had followed procedures to the T, didn't have to take a life, had used their tools effectively and acted within the scope of their mandate and training; without a doubt a job well done.

As it turned out the troubled young man was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces experiencing a mental health crisis.

Does that last line change anything?

Forces members have more in common with law enforcement than many might realize. We share an oath and commitment to duty. We wear a distinctive uniform that forms part of our identity, both internally and externally. We are subject to orders that may lead to harm or even our own end — and we take our own lives at a higher rate than the villain on the street, the

enemy on the battlefield or the average citizen.

Does law enforcement have a duty to do more for our service personnel in uniform or our veterans? What systems assist a veteran in crisis?

Here are some alternatives already in place, across Canada, to assist a Canadian Forces (CF) member in a mental health crisis; this is what military personnel call “enablers.” Nothing in this article serves to replace provincial laws or service policies.

Peer support

Peer support networks across Canada have swelled to provide awareness of mental health issues and respond to veterans in crisis. This initially began at the Army Reserve Brigades, but has grown to include every type of service.

An initiative known as ‘Send Up the Count,’ in response to an increase in military suicides, was recently recognized by the Governor General with the awarding of the Meritorious Service Medal. Peer support has proven to be an effective tool in monitoring the well-being of fellow soldiers, sailors and aviators.

A police officer on a mental health call may hesitate to include another person but might welcome a family member. To a soldier, a peer is a family member. Their inclusion can help de-escalate the situation and open the door to advanced CF care and support systems. Keep in mind that service members may not want their peers involved because they may feel this would make them appear weak in

their friend's view, or they may not want to be a burden to them. Remember, their peer cares and is likely willing to help.

The chain-of-command

Officers responding to a retail clerk in a mental health crisis would find it difficult to contact their employer for help. In the Canadian Forces, each member of the chain-of-command is trained on how to react to one of their soldiers experiencing a breakdown. From PTSD to drug and alcohol misuse and everything in between, these professional leaders take mandatory training on their requirement to respond and there are systems in place to back them up.

The easiest way to engage the chain-of-command is to get the consent of the person in crisis. Asking a question like “Is there anyone at your unit we can call?” or “Is there someone at your unit that you feel you'd like to speak to?” are great openers that will show that you understand, but also gets you the consent you need to activate the chain-of-command.

If there is a risk to public safety, you are obligated to notify the chain-of-command. A soldier will likely follow a leader, so behave like one and also get one there to help you.

The chaplain network

Each military unit has access to a military chaplain. CF chaplains are on strength, commissioned officers, essentially ‘free-runners,’ who offer much more than ministerial or pastoral care. They provide commanding officers

with timely assessment of the well-being of their unit. It is not unusual to have the padre jump in your trench for 40 minutes or join the line to load provisions on board ship just so they can have the opportunity to engage each member of the unit.

The chaplains by nature are trained and expected to be multi-faith and respect the beliefs of others. Military chaplains are on call 24/7 and, for the most part, a responding officer can potentially have a chaplain attend their call within an hour. For remote communities, a chaplain can be on the phone within minutes.

Chaplains are called to perform christenings, funerals and everything in between. They really have seen it all. If you have a military unit in your area, it is well worth your time to pay them a visit and learn how to contact them.

Resources for homeless veterans

It may seem hard to believe, but CF members in good standing can fall down the path to homelessness. In some cases, they may even feel like they are better off living that way. The important thing to know is that there are organizations — Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), Royal Canadian Legion and Veterans Emergency Transition Services (VETS), for example — that are happy to assist and will be there when a member is ready to accept help.

VETS Canada is a volunteer-led, apolitical, non-profit corporation based in Nova Scotia which provides aid and comfort to



Canadian veterans in-crisis, at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless. Contact: veteranscanada.org or call 1-888-228-3871.

VAC can also be called to provide support. Case management services are available to all current and former CF members and their families and former RCMP members who may be finding it difficult to transition. Case managers can help veterans by assessing their

immediate needs and linking them to services and programs within VAC or their community.

Veterans in crisis may be able to access emergency funds to help buy food, pay for emergency shelter or other essentials. Other services available include peer support, job-search training, career counselling and pastoral outreach.

VAC services can be accessed through

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“Using police as enablers to veterans in crisis”



Photo: MCpl Bruno Turcotte - DND Combat Camera

any of its offices or by calling 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French). You can also call the VAC Assistance Service at 1-800-268-7708, a 24-hour help line that provides veterans and their families with short-term professional counselling and referral services, including support for mental and emotional health concerns.

It has been stated that the majority of PTSD cases will appear between five and eight years after the individual returns from a deployment or experiences an event. We are well into that five to eight-year period with Afghanistan, so now is when we should expect more cases, not less.

Police officers will often recognize a military member is in distress from previous incidents or contacts. In other cases, family members will notify police that the member is either serving or a veteran.

It is also possible to recognize a member by the way they talk, dress, dog tags, tattoos or how they carry themselves. Individuals living on the street may use the equipment or kit that they are most comfortable with or trust, which could be of military issue — sleeping bag, Gerber knife, bayonet, desert boots, etc.

A soldier in crisis may initially see you as a threat to their isolation or just another authority figure trying to tell them what to do. He or she will constantly be assessing the threat (the responding officer) and continue developing their situational awareness determining all possible courses of action. These can be the same characteristics of a paranoid

person. Keep in mind that these instincts have been honed over a soldier's career.

To a soldier, cops or military police might just be another authority figure who wants to fight with them. They may also be looking for the challenge, the fight, a chance for the adrenalin rush or even pain if they feel guilt. It could either be survivor's guilt or guilt for some action they had to take while deployed. The difficulty in subduing a member who does not want to comply will be based on their training and tolerance for pain, or even “need” for pain.

A confrontation could likely cause the member to get angry and more stubborn. A soldier will not quit or go peaceably, if pushed; it is not in their nature to give up. Their code is to never surrender! Typically they will not want to talk to you about their feelings because they may perceive you as just another civilian. You have not earned their respect and do not understand what they have gone through. Ultimately, they may not want to talk about their issues with anyone, which is why they are where they are.

Consider responding with slow, straight-on talking. A cover officer should avoid moving around on the flank trying to get into a blind spot. Military people are trained to have situational awareness of their surroundings and as such will be observing you, your body language, approach and your partner's location. Try to reason with them that you have to do your job and cannot just leave them there. They can appreciate that you are just doing

your job. Most importantly, make the time to just sit and talk.

The emphasis today for law enforcement is on negotiation and de-escalation. These tips and resources can be called on when dealing with CF members and help end their crisis without the use of force or risk of injury.

In January, 2016 two officers respond to a noise complaint in the City of Vaughan. They determined by speaking with the subject that they were dealing with a soldier in crisis who may attempt to end his life.

They spoke to the soldier as an equal and gained consent to call their chain-of-command. Within 40 minutes a CF major arrived and assisted in calming and de-escalating the situation. When the soldier chose to act up, the major ordered him to behave by using command presence and a prior relationship of trust and mutual respect.

The soldier is receiving ongoing care and the police left knowing that they had followed procedures to the T, did not have to take a life, had used their tools effectively and acted within the scope of their mandate and training; without a doubt a job well done.

Mike Lacroix is a use of force trainer with York Regional Police who continues to serve in the Army Reserve as an infantry captain in the Grey & Simcoe Foresters. His former appointment was sergeant-major of 32nd Canadian Brigade Group in Toronto. Lacroix preserves the stories of Canada's veterans at www.canadianmilitaryhistorypodcast.ca. Contact: 1104@yrp.ca.

Acknowledgement: CWO Mark Shannon, CD

DEVIL'S NIGHT

by Richard Vander Vaart

The arrangement for chaplain ride-alongs was simple: show up at BOLO and be assigned to an officer. You can ride for an hour or two or as much of the 12-hour shift as you're able to complete.

It seemed like a fun idea to go out on "Devil's Night" (October 30) and see what shenanigans our officers might face. The staff sergeant does the assigning. He noticed one officer intently staring at the tile pattern on the floor; naturally, he was chosen.

A couple of expletives later and a caution from the staff to "watch the F-bombs" and we were ready to face the evening. He radioed in, noted he had a chaplain on board, and the night began. It was fine by me, funny actually, and awkward for him.

"WTF do you actually do? You a f-king cop wanna be?" I had heard it before. There was no chance to answer. We were called to a park for a couple of kids smoking up. Fifteen minutes later, this officer had them. It was cool to see the professionalism with which he worked.

After the loads of paper work — one thing that stands out for me as a chaplain is how much paper work officers have to complete — we were on the road again.

Now on foot, chasing some youths who were throwing eggs at passing cars. I didn't keep track of the F-bombs muttered at the thought of chasing these kids down and perhaps getting pelted ourselves. The chase was on. Two other officers caught them. "At least there's no #S*% paperwork on this one!" he taunted, waiting for me to react.

For a few hours I got out at each stop, at all the calls. Back in the car he'd swear again. I knew what was happening. Then a call went out to look for a stolen vehicle. We were in the part of town that had a few access points to the river. A perfect place to dump a stolen pickup truck. Near the water we saw one — wrong colour, wrong model, and unfortunately for the two youths in the pickup — wrong time. It was rocking.

The officer knocked on the window and I stayed in the police car, chuckling to myself. He told the shame-faced young man to zip up and get out of the area as they were trespassing on private property. Gravel flew in all directions as the lad drove out of there as quickly as possible.

Now I was facing an angry officer. He wove together an impressive tapestry of swear words as he asked me why I didn't come out with him this time. I had been out on the foot-chase, I'd been out for the all the other stops, why did I stay in the car this time?

"Look at me," I said. "I'm wearing a clerical collar. The poor kids were embarrassed enough to see you. Imagine if then they saw me, clerical collar and all. And what would I say to them? Something like, 'I see you have consummated this relationship, would you like me to officiate it now?'"

The officer laughed hard, and didn't stop for a couple of minutes. "Chappy, you are all-right."

Over the course of the next hour or so, I realized why he was so hesitant with me in the car. Was I evaluating his work? Would I report his actions to his superior? Why did we need chaplains anyway? All great questions.

Here are some answers: No, I was not evaluating his work. No, I do not report to his superiors. We need chaplains because it seems everyone is happy to see the fire truck arrive, but very few people are happy to see the police officer arrive. As a chaplain, I represent the many, many ordinary citizens you'll never

come into contact with. Not criminals or drug-dealers but the citizens who wave, pray for you and are thankful for your work.

You need a chaplain because there are times you see the worst of the human condition. There are times when you are at a suicide or a traffic accident and wonder, "Is my kid safe right now?" In those moments, you don't want to appear weak in front of your peers but you can admit your fears to me and know they're safe.

You are a cop, but you are human first. Often being a cop means you don't admit your fear. Being human is admitting your fear and struggles in a safe place and then going on from that moment continuing to do the good you do.

Richard Vander Vaart, married to Carolyn, has been a parish minister for 22 years and a volunteer police chaplain for the last ten years. He enjoys running and swimming.



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MOTOROLA GOES EXTREME



Motorola Solutions introduced its newest Extreme (XE) line of digital portable radios and remote speaker microphones (RSMs) in March.

Based extensively on the existing APX 8000 portable two-way radios and RSMs, the new APX 8000XE radio and APX XE500 RSMs again up the ruggedness ante. Many new features make the equipment easier to use and more durable against the hazards of extreme environments. These are the third-generation of the extra-rugged “XE” portable radios.

The product line was developed after extensive hands-on research with firefighters and other professional users.

Target market

While firefighters are the primary target users, other professionals who routinely work in harsh environments will also benefit from the rich feature-set. Specialised police units such as marine, K9, mounted and tactical would also appreciate the new features.

The new XE radio is part of Motorola’s Project 25 (P25) digital radios series, which operate in both analog or digital modes across the 700/800 MHz, VHF and UHF range 1 and 2 bands.

Encryption, voice and data communication, GPS/GLONASS (for outdoor location tracking) and most of the typical features found in high-end radios are included. There are several optional features, including a man-down sensor.

One of the most significant features is that both the new radio and RSM are water submersion-resistant to 2m (6’6”) of water for up to four hours. The RSM is also rated to withstand heat of up to 260°C (500°F) for five minutes.

10-9 that

To overcome communication challenges in noisy environments, both the radio and RSM include extra microphones (three on the radio and five on the RSM) that listen to the entire soundscape. The state-of-the-art adaptive audio-engine software then suppresses and filters-out virtually all sounds other than the operator’s voice.

The asymmetrically shaped RSM is designed for maximum user comfort so it will work flawlessly in any orientation or location on the user. A control knob allows users to change radio channels from the RSM without having to reach for the radio. Built-in voice announcements tell them in plain language what channel they have dialed-to. The standard messages can be customised by the user’s agency. There’s also a volume-toggle, protected emergency button and two LED status lights.

The radio and RSM features best-in-class (3-watt and 2-watt respectively) speakers so users are more-likely to clearly hear every transmission.

Physical features

The XE radio features a larger top display with larger fonts than the regular APX8000, making it easier to read. The top-display contents can also be oriented to face the front or back of the radio.

Larger oversized control knobs are designed to work better with gloved hands. The volume on/off control is shorter, wider and canted to the right, while the channel-select knob, located in the centre of the top, is taller, narrower and perfectly upright, allowing the user to easily distinguish between them by touch alone.

A larger emergency button is placed flush into the top of the radio, closer to the base of the antenna to better shield it from accidental activation. The remaining top-panel switches have been reorganized and the multi-coloured status light has been relocated for better visibility.

The outside perimeter of the top of the radio also features a guard-bumper, further protecting against accidentally rotating the top controls. Increased rotation tension also reduces unintended activation of both knobs.

The side of the radio body features a larger textured push-to-talk (PTT) button, again designed for better functionality when used with a gloved hand.

For future proofing, the radios have encrypted Bluetooth wireless communication, allowing them to connect wirelessly with



facemasks such as Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), and potentially with police gas masks.

As with the regular APX 8000 radios, both displays (model dependant) are protected with tempered glass (instead of softer polycarbonate plastic) which is also readable by users wearing polarised sunglasses.

The mid and high range models (2.5 and 3.5) also feature full bitmapped colour LCD displays for enhanced clarity. All displays can be back-lit. The model 2.5 and 3.5 have back-lit keypads on the face of the radio and additional operational capabilities that come with the keypads.

Radio management

One of the challenges of deploying a large number of portable radios is managing them both physically and electronically. Occasional updates to firmware, software and custom or special programming normally needs to be done by a technician and requires physical access to each radio.

With Motorola's optional Wi-Fi functionality in the APX8000XE, this can all now be done automatically and without any user intervention. The radio management system takes over and applies any and all updates as soon as the radio is recognised by and connected to its secure Wi-Fi network. This will be a huge time and labour saving feature, especially for agencies with large numbers of radios.

Colours

The standard housing colour is black on black, with options for black on "public safety yellow" or black on "high-impact green." The RSM comes in black or high-impact green.

The APX 8000 XE radio and APX XE 500 RSM are scheduled for availability in North America in June 2016. Depending on features, the single unit price should be in the US\$5,000-\$6,000 range and the RSM's in the US\$400-\$500 range.

Tom Rataj is *Blue Line's* Technology columnist and can be reached at technews@blueline.ca.



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Mental health is 'real police work'

A psychology student asked me recently how I became involved in police psychology since it's not acknowledged, let alone taught, in psychology school. I gave her an abridged version, leaving out all the parts about my bad judgment, butting in where I shouldn't have and being too stubborn to go away when it was apparent that I should have.

It did get me thinking about my pet area of police psychology, which has to do with interactions with people with mental illnesses. It's been about 15 or so years now since I first darkened the doorstep of the police world, and I got to thinking about how far we have come since I accidentally wandered into this area.

Back in the '90s, there was still some degree of debate about whether police even had a role to play in regard to people with mental illnesses. Ontario's Chief Coroner commented that "the police are the front line extension of a mental system," and an Ontario police chief picketed a mental health conference with a sign stating "we are not mental health workers."

Even in some of my early research in the area I still found a significant number of police officers who didn't feel that this kind of thing was "real" police work. I like to think that sentiment has subsided. One might argue about whether it OUGHT to be police work, but it's tough to dispute the reality. Statistics Canada suggests that there are upwards of a million such interactions every year. That sounds real to me!

The real question has always been what to do about it. Initially, the remedy seemed pretty straightforward. Clearly, police did not know or understand much about mental illness — so they needed training. There seemed to be a bit of wishful thinking going on here but the belief seemed to be that if we just taught everyone the signs and symptoms of schizophrenia, they could recognize a hallucination and all would be well.

Don't get me wrong — education is

essential and I have spent more than my fair share number of hours trying to figure out how to make it as effective as possible (see <http://goo.gl/CrWxY8> for conclusions in that regard). The fact is, though, education alone won't do it.

Most police services also figured that out. Enter the second generation of solutions. Along came the specialized programs and staff assignments to address the problem. Whether it was CIT-type training, joint response models, a designated mental health officer or MOUs with local agencies, police services tended to develop some targeted and specialized responses for situations involving people with mental illnesses.

There is no doubt these kinds of approaches have been effective in many ways. Mental health agencies and police now work together more effectively and more referrals are made. Fewer people are arrested or taken to the hospital emergency room. The community seems to like and appreciate these programs.

As far as they go, they are very successful — but like all individual programs, they have their limits. There are too many variables and different kinds of interactions with people with mental illnesses — and too many kinds of problems — to be easily addressed by a single add-on program.

In the last couple of years, we seem to have moved on a third generation of approaches — the strategic approach. Many police services have "strategies" in place for things like youth, domestic violence, gangs or organized crime, but the notion of taking a strategic approach to interactions with people with mental illnesses is more recent.

At the time I am writing this, the OPP is the only Canadian police organization I know of that has such a strategy, actually done and in writing. You can read it at <http://goo.gl/40Zlzt>. Last I heard Vancouver was on the verge — and its multifaceted approach to the problem certainly reflect the principles of such a strategy. The Vancouver Police

Department's initiatives in this area include:

- A mental health unit led by a sergeant who co-ordinates all activities related to P/MHP;
- Police inclusion in mental health care teams, which provide for exchange of information between the medical system and the police when appropriate;
- The Car 87 program (co-response program);
- Downtown Community Court;
- An Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, which includes a police officer;
- A homeless outreach coordinator — a position that also provides a focus on the role of mental health problems in homelessness;
- A sex trade liaison officer — again, providing recognition of the role of mental health problems and substance use in this population; and
- Project Link: a joint activity of the police and Vancouver Coastal Health Board, whose goals include both improved outcomes for clients and improved and more efficient use of both police and mental health resources.

Hamilton has been a leader in this area for many decades. While probably best known for its co-response team COAST, it now also has several different co-response teams; a mobile response that does not include police, and a rapid-response team for crisis situations which require immediate response and greater overall police involvement — all for improving outcomes for people with mental illnesses. Specific initiatives include:

- A high visibility foot/bike patrol team in the downtown core where about 80 per cent of mental health encounters occur. This team is supported by a social navigator who proactively helps to prevent crises by linking individuals to services and supporting community partners;
- Several co-response teams with a mental health worker and police officer; these include teams focused on providing services

- to adults, children and family and seniors;
- The COAST program, which also operates a suicide prevention help line;
- Almost half of frontline police officers have completed the 40 hour crisis intervention team training and currently the Hamilton Police Service is training all personnel with a program specific to suicide presentation;
- A Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) in which a mental health worker and police officer in the same police vehicle provide a first response to situations involving P/MHP; and
- The development and utilization of the patient transfer document (MOU), developed in partnership with St. Joseph's Hospital, which has succeeded in reducing wait times in the emergency room from an average of 2.5 hours to 70 minutes in general and to under an hour for the MCRRT.

What all of these approaches really speak to is the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach rather than a single add-on program. Wondering where to start? The Mental Health Commission recently released an updated version of the Contemporary Policing Guidelines for Working with the Mental Health System — <http://goo.gl/ZoBk4a>.

Have a look.

Dr. Dorothy Cotton is *Blue Line's* psychology columnist, she can be reached at deepblue@blueline.ca



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by Stephanie Conn

TIME *Sickness*



If you're like me, you have a busy life filled with deadlines and demands. We live in a fast-paced world that shows no signs of slowing down. All this hurrying around is having serious consequences on our health, relationships and, oddly, our productivity.

Not a day goes by that I don't hear someone (sometimes myself) say "I don't have time for that" or "I'm too busy to deal with that." Saying this is almost a badge of glory in a 'who's the busiest' competition.

Unfortunately, we live in a time where doing everything as fast as possible is a sign of strength. Think of the many television programs based upon people doing tasks against a ticking clock. These seem to justify us rushing through life, constantly multitasking and trying to do even more with even less time.

Policing involves shift work, overtime, court appearances and training days, which makes having a life outside of work difficult, but not impossible. You might be tempted to fall back on the demanding police schedule to excuse yourself from participating in other aspects of your life. I did when I was a gang detective.

It felt good to know that I was doing meaningful and exciting work. Yet, it can become addictive and consume your free time, even if it is just mentally consuming. I noticed (mostly because others pointed it out) that I was spending less time doing the things outside of work that were once important. I was losing parts of myself in favour of being a police officer.

'Living fast' is costly

One of the most obvious costs I have observed as a therapist is that eventually people meet their limits. They become physically ill with chronic headaches, muscle aches, insomnia, exhaustion and digestive issues. Mentally, they are foggy, unable to focus, yet anxious

and riddled with worry.

Relationships suffer because others are pushed away, ignored and possibly even villainized because they try to slow us down. We justify our need to be busy like our life depends on it, dismissing advice to slow down and rest by saying the person doesn't understand our circumstances or has selfish or ulterior motives for wanting us to be less productive.

Instead of feeling stronger and more capable, overly busy people feel they are not good enough because their bodies, minds and relationships are falling apart. Some will take stress leave from work but then recreate the busyness frenzy in their recovery time. They want their healing to happen at the same speed that got them there in the first place.

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them," observed Albert Einstein. I think this wisdom clearly applies here. Let's talk about another way of thinking about our daily lives.

Over the years, I've taught time management courses in organizational settings. Attendees were surprised when I advised them to eliminate things from their to-do lists rather than teach them time saving techniques so they could do more.

Pausing to reflect

When we don't take the time to reflect on how we spend our time, we tend to fill it with things that don't truly contribute to our lives in a meaningful way. Take a moment now and think about what is important to you – your relationship or health, for example. These are important aspects of our lives that tend to be ignored because there are no immediate consequences to neglecting them. However, over time, there will be dire consequences.

Stephen Covey, author of *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, talked about categorizing life

tasks as urgent and/or important. Covey warns that we tend to get these two concepts confused, contending "Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important." Does this apply to your life?

I know emergencies often derail our best intentions to tend to the important things in our life. Yet, if you don't carve out the time for the important, you will actually contribute to ongoing emergencies such as relationship and health failures. Carving out time for the important means being intentional about how you spend your time. It might be cumbersome at first but you have to continuously ask yourself "Is this important in the big picture of my life?" or "Would I trade this for my relationship, health?" and act in accordance with your response.

In short, the medicine for time sickness is changing your mindset about busyness. Reset the tempo of your life and slow down by eliminating things not connected to your big picture objectives. Maybe this means saying "no" to favours for others and reducing time-wasting activities you do when exhausted from handling emergencies – television programs, especially those perpetuating the "rush" theme, for example, or mindlessly checking social media. Eliminating or at least limiting these activities will leave you more time and energy for what matters most.

I leave you with another quote from Covey.

"The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities."

Dr. Stephanie Conn is a former police officer and currently a clinical psychologist practicing in Vancouver. She is a regular *Blue Line* columnist. Contact: stephanie@blueline.ca or visit conncounselling.com

Court finds an “Inventory check” was illegal search

by Colin Perkel

TORONTO — A traffic officer who routinely searched vehicles he stopped was out of line and should have known better, Ontario’s top court ruled last month.

In throwing out a drug conviction, the court found a car search by Cst. Robert Sinclair violated the rights of the accused, Alexander Harflett.

“I do not doubt that Cst. Sinclair believes that he is doing the right thing,” the Court of Appeal said. “(But) as an instructor of other police officers, he ought to be fully conversant with his legal authority — but the evidence shows either that he was not or that he was prepared to search regardless.”

Sinclair, with the Ontario Provincial Police highway enforcement team, was at a service centre on Highway 401 when he spotted a vehicle with Quebec plates. As a demonstration for a colleague, the officer ran a search on the plates and found Harflett’s driver’s licence had been suspended for unpaid fines.

The officer pulled him over down the highway, where Harflett, of Oshawa, Ont., produced a valid Quebec licence. Sinclair arrested him for using another licence while his Ontario one was suspended. He also called a tow truck to move the car from the highway to a nearby hotel to allow Harflett to pay his fines and get his licence back.

Sinclair then took what he called an “inventory” of the vehicle — something he testified he always did — an approach that didn’t sit well with the Appeal Court.

“He resisted the notion that what he did was a ‘search;’ this was plainly a search,” the Appeal Court said.

“A check stop does not and cannot constitute a general search warrant for searching every vehicle, driver and passenger that is pulled over.”

During the search, Sinclair discovered marijuana in the trunk. He arrested Harflett for possessing the drug for trafficking purposes.

At trial, Sinclair admitted he had been conducting a traffic investigation when he detained the accused and had no reason to suspect any criminality. However, he argued he needed to verify if the car had any valuables or dangerous items inside.

In March 2014, Ontario court Judge Catherine Kehoe found his actions reasonable, decided any violation of the accused’s rights was technical or minor, admitted the drug evidence, and convicted him.

In throwing out the case, the Appeal Court found Sinclair had no authority for the search.

“The inventory search cannot be justified on the basis of officer safety or any suspicion

that the appellant was involved in criminal conduct,” the Appeal Court said. “Sinclair had no public safety concerns, since he was going to release the car to the appellant.”


The court also noted two other cases where Sinclair had been found to have abused his search powers leading to the exclusion of evidence.

“The impact of an unjustified search is magnified where there is a total absence of justification for it,” the court said.

Without the drugs as evidence, the prosecution had no case, so the Appeal Court entered an acquittal.

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Helping drug buyer not always aiding seller



Incidentally assisting a drug buyer isn't aiding and abetting the seller, which would make an individual guilty of trafficking as a party to the offence.

In *R. v. Machushek*, 2016 SKCA 41 two undercover officers went to a bar to further an investigation into cocaine drug trafficking. They played pool and mingled with a group of people, including Machushek. After a few hours of drinking, the officers talked to Machushek about buying cocaine.

When the bar closed, Machushek took the officers to his home, where they used the bathroom and admired his woodworking projects.

Machushek called a drug dealer and all three drove in the officers' truck to a darkened street to meet the seller, who sold each person a gram of cocaine.

Machushek did not handle the officers' money or the cocaine intended for them, nor did he receive any payment from the seller or officers. After the buy, the three went back to Machushek's home. He asked the officers to come in and party but they declined.

Several months later Machushek was arrested and charged with two counts of trafficking and two counts of possessing proceeds of crime.

A Saskatchewan Provincial Court judge found Machushek did not commit any acts of trafficking in his own right, nor was he a party to the offence in that he aided (s. 21(1)(b) Criminal Code) or abetted (s. 21(1)(c)) the seller such that he would have been guilty of the seller's act of trafficking. Rather, he held that Machushek was "facilitating a buy as a buyer" and that he and the two officers were "joint purchasers."

Machushek was acquitted of the trafficking and proceeds charges because he did not receive any money as a result of the transaction, nor had he ever held any of the officers' money.

The Crown challenged the acquittals in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, suggesting Machushek was guilty of trafficking because he aided and abetted the trafficker. In the Crown's view, if the purchase would not have taken place without Machushek's assistance, he should be found guilty of aiding and abetting the trafficking of cocaine.

Justice Jackson, however, felt this reasoning would set the bar too low in determining what constituted aiding or abetting a drug trafficking. She recognized that not every act assisting the purchase of drugs can lead to a finding of guilt for trafficking. Otherwise, a friend who drives someone across town to buy drugs would be guilty.

"With respect to the actus reus, where the facts reveal no more than incidental assistance of the sale through rendering aid to the purchaser, the... proper charge is not trafficking,

regardless of intent," said Jackson.

"With respect to the mens rea... the test is whether the assistance is rendered solely to the purchaser or, cast in different terms but arriving at the same result, whether the 'acts are designed to aid the purchaser.'"

The court provided a summary to assist in determining whether a person committed a trafficking offence.

[W]hen the charge is trafficking and the theory of the Crown is that the accused is guilty of trafficking either as a principal or as a party, the analytical framework to apply is as follows:

- (a) *Has the accused committed any acts of trafficking in his or her own right?*
- (b) *If no, did any acts or omissions of the accused aid or abet the trafficker in the commission of the offence of trafficking?*
- (c) *If yes, do the facts reveal something more than incidental assistance to the trafficker through rendering assistance to the purchaser?*
- (d) *If yes, did the accused know that the trafficker intended to commit the offence of trafficking?*
- (e) *If yes, did the accused intend to aid or abet the trafficker in the commission of the offence of trafficking?* [para. 72]

The trial judge did not err in finding Machushek's intent was to aid himself and the police officers in buying cocaine, not to aid the seller. The Crown's appeal was dismissed.

Court must consider entire definition

A court must consider the complete definition of antique firearm before deciding whether it applies.

In *R. v. Kennedy*, 2016 MBCA 5, the accused was arrested outside his house trailer for breaching a court-ordered condition to have no contact with his neighbour. He was patted-down for officer safety incidental to the arrest and police found two loaded handguns in his pants' pockets, both cocked and ready to fire. The guns were very old but testing confirmed that they were functional.

Police obtained warrants to search Kennedy's trailer and found eight guns, 12 magazines and 200 rounds of ammunition, including a Clement Arms .32 calibre British Bulldog revolver with five rounds in its cylinder. Kennedy was charged with breach of recognizance and several weapons offences.

At trial in the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, Kennedy was convicted of several offences but acquitted on a charge under s. 91(1) of the Criminal Code for possessing a prohibited firearm without a registration certificate because the British Bulldog revolver was an antique firearm under s. 84(3). That section deems certain weapons, including an antique firearm, not to be firearm for the purpose of s. 91(1).

An antique firearm is defined as including "any firearm manufactured before 1898 that was not designed to discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition and that has not been redesigned to discharge such ammunition."

The judge found the "expert witnesses called on behalf of the Crown were unable to determine whether this particular firearm was manufactured before or after 1898." Thus, the

Crown failed to prove the essential elements of the offence under s. 91(1).

The Crown appealed Kennedy's acquittal to Manitoba's highest court, arguing that the trial judge erred in only considering the year of manufacture in the antique firearm definition.

Instead, the judge should have considered that the definition also requires that the firearm cannot be designed, or re-designed, to discharge rim-fire or centre-fire ammunition. A Crown expert had testified that the British Bulldog revolver fired centre-fire ammunition, therefore it did not fall within the definition of antique firearm regardless of its age.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal overturned Kennedy's acquittal and entered a conviction.



Implied licence to knock requires careful analysis

The sole intent in using the implied licence to knock waiver to enter private property must be to communicate, otherwise the doctrine can be undermined and the scope of the waiver exceeded.

In *R. v. Parr*, 2016 BCCA 99 the accused was arrested at the roadside under the BC Mental Health Act and taken to hospital for medical care. Police impounded his vehicle and took his dog.

The investigator contacted a detachment more than three hours away and asked that another police officer assist by going to Parr's property, try to locate his fiancée to tell her of the situation and see if arrangements could be made to pick up the dog.

The assisting officer, who knew Parr was the subject of an ongoing marijuana grow operation investigation, went to the residence at 2:52 am. He saw no vehicles but the lights in the main building and a secondary residence were on.

The officer walked straight to the front door of the house and knocked. A sign asked visitors to "Please use the side door." The officer heard a television or radio on inside the house and could smell vegetative marijuana. Since no one answered, he knocked loudly on the side door. Again, he could smell vegetative marijuana. He noted a PVC pipe at the side of the house that appeared to be venting air from the basement.

With no answer at the side door, the officer went to the secondary residence and noted plastic sheeting and blinds covering some windows. The secondary residence did not appear to be occupied and no one answered his knock on a sliding door so he left without doing a perimeter search of the property.

The officer stopped on the highway to see if he could smell marijuana upwind from the property; he could not.

The olfactory information obtained from the entry onto Parr's property was used in conjunction with the pre-existing investigation to obtain and execute a search warrant. A large marijuana grow operation and five guns were located on the property and the accused was charged with drug and weapons offences.

In BC Supreme Court the officer testified to the following:

- He attended Parr's property to locate the fiancée, notify her that Parr was on his way to the hospital and see if someone could take custody of the dog;

- He was aware that a drug investigation was ongoing and that he might make observations confirming or dispelling suspicions that Parr's residence housed a marijuana grow operation;
- He had no grounds to be on the property to investigate a potential marijuana grow operation and went straight to the doors to determine if anyone was home;
- He immediately left the property when no one answered;
- He would not have gone to the residence had he not received the request for assistance;
- He did not phone the fiancée because "bad medical news about somebody" was best delivered in person and an unanswered phone call would not confirm that no one was home; and
- He denied the suggestion that his motivation for attending the property was, at least in part, to further an ongoing criminal investigation.

The judge concluded that the officer was entitled to enter the property under the implied licence to knock doctrine. The purpose was to communicate with an occupant by notifying the next of kin of a medical emergency and not to gather evidence to further the drug investigation.

The officer's knowledge of the ongoing investigation did not undermine his otherwise valid purpose of communicating Parr's emergency medical condition. Thus, his observations properly formed part of the reasonable grounds for the search warrant. Parr was convicted of producing marijuana, possession for the purpose of trafficking and improperly storing firearms.

Parr appealed to BC's top court arguing the trial erred in applying the implied licence doctrine because the officer was motivated, at least in part, by an investigative purpose when he entered onto the property and smelled the marijuana.

Implied licence

Under the law, the "occupants of a home are deemed to have waived their reasonable expectation of privacy for defined purposes," the BC Court of Appeal noted.

Where the police knock for the sole purpose of facilitating communication with an occupant, they act within the scope of the implied invitation. In these circumstances, no constitutionally recognized search occurs because the entry does not intrude upon the

occupant's reasonable expectation of privacy.

The waiver of privacy rights embodied in the implied invitation extends no further than is required to achieve this purpose. Where the conduct of the police goes beyond that which is permitted by the implied licence to knock, the conditions of that licence are breached and the police approach the dwelling as an intruder [para. 2].

If the approach to the home for the purpose of communicating is motivated by an investigative purpose, such as smelling for marijuana, the police conduct exceeds the scope of the implied licence to knock principle and the search is subject to s. 8 Charter scrutiny.

Justice Fitch, writing the unanimous decision, found the trial judge did not err in finding the officer entered the property for the limited purpose of communicating with the occupants, not to further an investigative aim.

In my view, it is important to distinguish... between the purpose for the entry and knowledge on the part of the police of the potential that evidence might be acquired in the course of that entry. Provided the police act for a purpose falling within the scope of the implied invitation to knock principle, and for no other reason, the fact they are aware evidence might be acquired in the course of the entry does not make them "intruders" acting outside the scope of the doctrine.

I accept, however, that the existence of an ongoing criminal investigation at the time of the entry, and advertence by the police to the prospect of gathering evidence in the course of that entry, are relevant considerations to be taken into account when determining the purpose for which the entry and knock was undertaken [para. 55].

Fitch did, however, reject the notion of a dual purpose and found such reasoning "incompatible with the implied licence principle." In other words, police exceed implied licence and cannot rely on it where they have both a purpose to speak to an occupant (even if this is a "predominant" or "primary purpose") while at the same time having a secondary purpose motivated by an investigative goal.

Communication must be the sole purpose, as the trial judge found. Parr's appeal was dismissed.

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Still no consensus on body cameras



TORONTO — Some Canadian cities and police forces already wrestling with cash-flow shortages are moving toward outfitting officers with body cameras despite privacy concerns and scant consensus on the technology's cost-effectiveness.

Body camera programs aren't cheap, according to multiple forces across the country, and would require hiring more personnel to deal with the hundreds and thousands of hours of footage. Storage costs alone can run in the millions of dollars.

Nonetheless, proponents say the cameras provide better evidence, lead to more convictions, improve officers' interactions with the public and reduce police use-of-force incidents.

Others, however, argue the videos invade the privacy of citizens, and worry that administrative duties related to body cameras will keep officers away from policing.

Edmonton police conducted a comprehensive three-year pilot program that involved the use of 55 body cameras in a variety of areas from downtown patrol beats to the entertainment district and impaired driving investigations.

The project ended in 2014. Police concluded the cameras had no effect on police use-of-force incidents and said there was no statistical difference in resolving police complaints.

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson says there isn't a good business case for the program. "We're already at our wit's end trying to fund basic policing and all the social work our officers are doing," Iveson said in an interview.

"I'm not really interested in picking up the freight for a lot of cameras and hard drives on top of that."

Video storage fees are often overlooked by body camera supporters.

It would cost Toronto police about \$18 million a year to store videos on a server if they were to outfit all front-line officers — numbering more than 3,000 — according to Insp. Michael Barsky, who is the operational lead for the force's year-long pilot project that wrapped up late last week.

Hamilton police have said a complete body camera program would range in cost from \$6.9 million to \$14.8 million over a five-year period.

"The most significant and incremental cost relates to data storage and management," Supt. Paul Morrison said last year.

Police forces have two general options for data storage: a cloud-based server hosted by a third party, or local storage — essentially giant hard drives that police forces own and operate themselves.

Police in Canada are loathe to hand over videos to a third party, particularly one based in the U.S. "It was a non-starter for us," said Barsky of the Toronto police.

The force, he said, opted for in-house storage because it wanted complete control over data for security reasons. There were also concerns that the U.S. Patriot Act allows American authorities to access data that is stored in their country.

But in-house data storage comes at a steep cost, and companies such as Taser are hoping to grab a slice of the body camera pie in Canada.

Last summer, the company launched Axon Public Safety Canada — a subsidiary of Taser International Inc. that offers body cameras and video management products to police forces across Canada — with servers now physically located in the country.

"We've recommitted ourselves to Canada," said Taser spokesman Steve Tuttle. "It is a tremendous opportunity for us."

The company offers Evidence.com, a service, Tuttle explained, that allows police to save videos and use custom tools to blur faces in an effort to diminish privacy worries.

Tuttle said business has boomed south of the border after riots broke out in Ferguson, Missouri, after a black man was fatally shot by a white police officer. There is no known video of the event.

"It's not a panacea, but I think we would have had a different outcome had we had video," Tuttle said. "I think Ferguson woke up every chief of police."

President Barack Obama wants to outfit police forces across America with 50,000 police body cameras, and U.S. Congress recently approved a \$75 million three-year funding program to help buy them.

In Toronto, there is political will to give body cameras to frontline officers. Mayor John Tory has urged police chief Mark Saunders to

act swiftly upon completion of the pilot program. The chair of the Toronto police board echoed Tory's sentiments.

What happens in Toronto could determine the situation in the rest of the province.

Ontario's police forces — save for a small force in Amherstburg that has already outfitted all 16 of its frontline officers with cameras — are watching Toronto following a directive from The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, which is supported by the Ministry of the Attorney General, Barsky said.

"We have to be very aware that bad policy in Toronto creates bad case law in Canada," Barsky said.

Barsky said storage is the most significant cost of the program, but a close second would be the personnel required to manage and deal with all the video.

He said the 85 officers involved in the pilot project could spend up to three hours of 10-hour shifts off the street tending to tedious administrative duties related to the videos: from uploading and tagging the videos to going through each video and noting who and what needs to be redacted.

And they have to keep some of those videos for upwards of 11 years if it involves a criminal case, compounding the storage issue over time.

In Vancouver, police have opted out of the body camera game for now. "The cost of retention, storage and use of the massive amounts of data that will be generated remains a significant hurdle," said Vancouver Const. Brian Montague.

Meanwhile, the Calgary police force is rolling out the devices over the next year after purchasing 1,100 cameras from a Utah-based company. And they've figured out a cheap and old-school way to store all the videos from their \$1.3 million program: storage tapes.

"It sounds archaic, but it's not," said Staff Sgt. Todd Robertson.

"It's like a large robot attached to a server. As that server is about to fill up it dumps that data onto the tapes and the videos can remain on those tapes uncorrupted for 60 to 70 years. And those tapes are cheap, so storage cost wasn't a deciding factor for us."

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DISPATCHES



RCMP Cst. **Sarah Becket** passed away in a motor vehicle collision on April 5 in Langford, BC. She was 32 years-old and a member of the RCMP since 2005. She spent all of her eleven years of service on Vancouver Island — in Port McNeil, Langford, Colwood and at the time of the collision was on shift as part of the West Shore RCMP. She has left behind her husband and two young children.



...

Mike Bellai has been promoted from deputy to chief of the Stratford Police Service. Bellai joined Peel Regional Police in 1988 when he was 21 years old. Bellai was promoted to inspector in 2010 where he ran the support services division. He became deputy chief in 2013 and graduated from the FBI National Academy the following year. Bellai has been the acting chief since former **Chief John Bates** took a position with the St. John Police Force.



...

Former North Bay chief **Paul Cook** has been appointed the new Chancellor of Nipissing University becoming its fourth Chancellor. He'll begin his four-year term as Chancellor on June 1. The appointment comes after a two-year search by the Chancellor selection committee. Cook served as Chief of Police for the North Bay Police Service from 2004 - 2016, capping off 34 years on the force.



...

Insp. **Dan Jones**, a 19-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Service, is on his way to Cambridge University, where he has been accepted into the master of studies program in applied criminology and police management on a Wakefield scholarship. His studies will focus on crime and harm-reduction issues, with an emphasis on evidence-based policing, which uses academic research to ensure the use of best practices. His second-year master's thesis will focus on a topic selected by EPS.



...

Cst. **Gerry Rundel**, who responded the night a Polish immigrant was killed at Vancouver's airport, has filed a statement of claim in British Columbia Supreme Court naming the Attorney General of Canada and B.C.'s Minister of Justice as defendants. The document alleges he was made a "scapegoat" after Robert Dziekanski was repeatedly stunned with a Taser and died at the airport in October, 2007. Court documents say Rundel has suffered "permanent and irreparable harm," and alleges his career has been effectively destroyed and his chances at another career have been seriously impeded.



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Chief makes mental health of members a priority

HALIFAX — On November 8, 2008, Jean-Michel Blais stood in front of a collapsed primary school in Haiti, watching as 93 bodies, most of them children, stacked up in front of him.

The United Nations police team bore through the rubble in search of survivors, and found a girl trapped between the bodies of two other children. As deputy commissioner of the UN mission, it was Blais who gave the order to cut one of the bodies in half to pull the surviving girl out safely.

More than to serve and protect, Blais says police work is about confronting the problems that people would not, should not and could not deal with.

But sometimes, he can't either.

Blais, who became Halifax Regional Police Chief in 2012, recently revealed he has post-traumatic stress disorder. It has become a hallmark of his leadership atop the Halifax force, where he has made officers' mental health a priority.

By next month, every Halifax cop will complete a half-day Road to Mental Readiness workshop.

"Day in, day out, these officers have to show up at the doors and deal with the challenges that are there," Blais said in a recent talk at Mount Saint Vincent University, "Spat upon. Shot at. Cut. Yelled at. You think that doesn't leave them with a lasting stress?"

Blais wants to start a discussion about mental illness within the force. He says in a "suck-it-up" police culture, officers have been more likely to grab a 40-ouncer than reach for help.

He's trying to change that. "(Officers) have to realize that they have to take care of themselves before they can take care of others," Blais said in an interview.

When he talks publicly about his PTSD, Blais makes a point of wearing his uniform, to show that mental illness can happen to



anyone. The symbolism of this is not without its controversy.

"There have been some questions, I think fair questions, about (my) ability to lead," Blais said. "I don't know a good leader who hasn't gone through particular challenges and hasn't come out better for it."

About eight per cent of police officers have PTSD, according to Tema Conter Memorial Trust, which supports first responders. Since 2014, the organization reports that 31 Canadian police officers have committed suicide.

"Most people experience trauma once in their lives," trust director Vince Savoia said. "Police experience it multiple times a day."

In his 25 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Blais served three tours in Haiti. In 2008, he became second-in-command of the UN police mission to stabilize the region, leading 1,700 officers of all nationalities.

That fall, four successive tropical storms battered the country, killing 800 people in two weeks.

When he returned to Ottawa in 2009, he found that something was off. He lived in a state of constant discomfort, sleeping fitfully, struggling to find normal.

"I'd look at my son very closely and make sure he was well at all times," Blais said.

In 2010, a catastrophic earthquake devastated Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of

people including 96 UN Peacekeepers. Blais was sent to recover the bodies of two fellow RCMP officers, one of them Chief Superintendent Doug Coates, who had taken over his position months before.

A friend asked him if he had had a life changing experience. "I have," he said. "And I need to get out of Ottawa."

He thought it was just work, but things weren't getting any better. He woke four or five times a night, his sheets drenched in sweat. He says his wife learned "nocturnal self-defence" to calm him down when he thrashed in bed.

He accepted a job heading the Halifax RCMP. Not long after, in 2012, he got the top job at Halifax Regional Police, and he sought the medical attention that led to his PTSD diagnosis.

"What was most difficult was going through the actual therapy," he said. "These things bring you back."

As he describes these experiences, Blais focuses on his breathing to slow his heart rate. Talking about PTSD can be therapeutic but also can recall the stress of the traumatic incident.

Sometimes, all it takes is a crack in the sidewalk, and Blais is back in Haiti digging for his friend's dogtags in the debris of the quake-flattened UN headquarters.

There are days he doesn't want to go to work. Then he thinks about the police officers under his command, and he puts on his uniform. It's their problems he's dealing with now.

"They're just police employees for a certain amount of time," Blais said. "We enjoy life through the help and community of others, and when you're injured with a traumatic stress injury, you tend to forget that."

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Canada should have stricter gun laws

by Chris Lewis

Canada's legislation around the acquisition, carriage and storage of firearms is one of the huge public safety advantages we have over our American friends. Although even one shooting or homicide is unacceptable, our gun-related crime rates are a mere pittance compared to the United States per capita. We must be doing something right on our side of the 49th parallel — but can we do more?

The number of shootings in the Toronto area, most or all involving handguns, have spiked recently. Some other major Canadian cities are seeing similar increases, albeit not as significant.

There may be a hundred societal reasons for this increase in violence. Often, but not always, the victims are somehow associated to a criminal lifestyle of some sort, which voluntarily places them in a higher risk category.

However, Toronto has seen a few seemingly random public shootings as of late, which as Toronto Police Staff Inspector Greg McLane said, is "not the norm."

Buying a handgun in Canada involves a fairly rigorous process, including background checks, so many guns used in crimes have been either stolen from legal owners or imported from the US, where they are a dime a dozen.

Let's be honest, just about anyone can buy one (or ten) there; they are insecurely kept in purses, glove boxes, night stands and pockets; and record keeping for legally owned guns is abysmal. Canadian law enforcement works hard to keep American guns out.

Even though our legislation is tighter, police experts in handgun trafficking tell me that it's still possible for a person without a criminal record — the girlfriend of a gang member, for example — to legally buy a dozen handguns or more. Sometimes multiple handguns of the same brand, model and calibre are purchased.

Who needs several identical handguns? It's not like buying extra rolls of toilet paper on sale at Costco. They are GUNS. Furthermore, police are not notified about large-scale purchases.

When one of the guns is found at a crime scene or in some gang-banger's possession, police can, of course, trace it back to the original purchaser, who can then easily feign innocence, claiming it was taken without her knowledge. What an utter recipe for disaster. That is a door that needs to be slammed shut.

Canada needs to immediately study the possession of legal handguns and significantly tighten ownership laws to limit the number that can be used illegally or stolen to do harm. Government needs to act quickly before it becomes too late to turn back the hands of time.

Look at the situation we're seeing in the US, which seemingly has more handguns than people. How could the government try to reduce the number of handguns in such a society?

Yes, there are legitimate "collectors" out there. Government would have to consider that in some cases guns have been legally handed down through generations — but some owners did not inherit their guns and are not target shooters. Some folks just like to buy and own handguns. Others buy them for "protection" or to use them in crimes.

One gun-loving friend recently compared gun lovers to motorcycle owners. I love my motorcycle but no one can haul my 800 pound Harley into a corner store or bank and use it to commit a violent robbery. Nor is anyone likely to steal it to run down a group of people in a shopping mall.

Only law enforcement, properly licensed security professionals, the military and legitimate target shooters should be able to possess handguns. Perhaps "authentic" sport shooters could be authorized as well — if they to belong to a licensed shooting club and have their guns securely stored there — not at their residence or office. Anyone else found with a handgun in any other circumstance should be arrested, charged and given a severe penalty upon conviction.

Government needs to send a clear legislative message to those who flout the laws and illegally possess or carry handguns and/or use them during the commission of crimes.

This would support the many programs by police and other agencies to steer youth away from the lure of guns, gangs and other destructive lifestyles. Appellant courts haven't traditionally supported harsh minimum sentences for gun crimes, but it's time to push again.

Many constantly profess that "Guns don't kill, people do." Yup, you're right, but people would kill a lot less people if they didn't have handguns.

"Knives kill too," is another common argument. "Are you going to ban all knives?" Another valid point, but knives have many valid uses and I don't recall any mass knifings in movie theatres or schools or even drive-by knifings.

Handguns are for shooting targets and killing people. Canada needs to control possession so only targets and tin cans are shot on the northern side of the border — not innocent people.

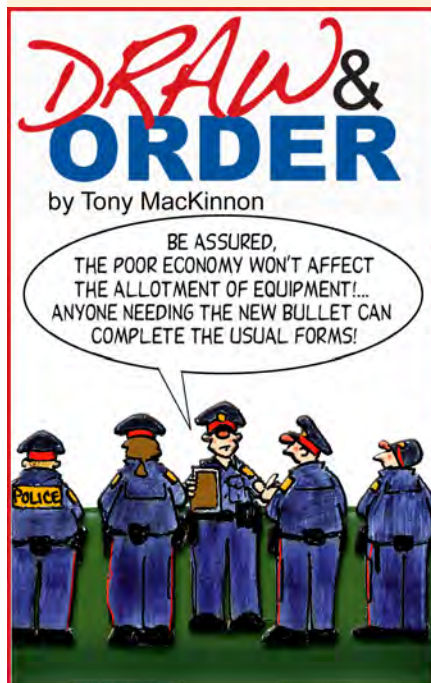
Commissioner (Ret.) Chris Lewis was a member of the OPP for 36 years, serving across Ontario in a variety of operational and command roles. He continues to consult, write and lecture on policing and leadership issues. He can be reached at: www.lighthouseleadershipservices.com

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