

# FOP

# JOURNAL



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**On the cover:** Photo courtesy of Lenco Armored Vehicles





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# Working With the New Administration



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Chuck Canterbury at [fopchuck@outlook.com](mailto:fopchuck@outlook.com).

As I write this article, we are awaiting the inauguration of the 45th president of the United States. The Fraternal Order of Police has a very democratic process of selecting our endorsed candidate, and in September 2016, 40 states voted to endorse Donald Trump and five voted for no endorsement.

It is my duty as the National president to announce the results and to inform the candidate of the endorsement, and this candidate utilized the endorsement far more than any other has during my tenure. Trump invoked the endorsement in the debates and during interviews after the Republican National Convention. It was very well-documented that Trump expressed his support for law enforcement at every stop on the campaign trail, and always took time to stop and thank officers for their service and for protecting him and the public at his rallies.

After being elected, Trump nominated Senator Jeff Sessions from Alabama for the position of attorney general. Senator Sessions has a long history of supporting the Civil Asset Forfeiture program. He has also expressed that he does not believe the federal government should take over the operations of state and local law enforcement, and that he wants to see the consent decree trend reduced and replaced with

a more collaborative approach to work with state and local departments when it is determined that there is a pattern and practice of systemic deficiency. Senator Sessions called me after being nominated; we discussed a number of issues and he thanked us for our support. He pledged that I would have a place at the table in all matters that are important to rank-and-file officers, and I feel comfortable in reporting that will be the case.

Senator Sessions has a long history of invoking states' rights when voting and there have been times when we disagreed with his positions, but based on his body of work and the positions he has expressed in regard to law-and-order issues, it was decided that I would testify in favor of his confirmation. I was the only law enforcement association president asked to testify. My testimony was well-received by the majority of the committee, and after the hearing all thanked me for the FOP's opinion. Sessions has received the endorsement of most law enforcement organizations.

The National FOP will continue to work with this administration in an attempt to help move the national discussion away from police mistrust by communities to the actual reality that a vast majority of the public trusts and supports law enforcement. **FOP**

## Your Foundation Needs You!

The National FOP Foundation was there to help financially when members from Louisiana to West Virginia were adversely affected by flooding and hurricanes in 2016. Now we need your help so that we can be there again the next time members are in need. President Canterbury extends a challenge to all members to donate \$10. If you would like to make a credit card donation, please call (800) 451-2711, or you can send a check to:

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# Threats to Pay and Benefits Growing Across America



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Jay McDonald at [jmcdonald@fopohio.org](mailto:jmcdonald@fopohio.org).

## Despite Trump Win, Local Efforts Are Needed to Stop Bad Bills

**B**rothers and Sisters, While the calendar has flipped to 2017 and a new American presidency is beginning, it's clear that legislation harming public employees won't be going away.

As I write this, I'm preparing to accompany President Canterbury to the inaugural festivities in our nation's capital. I'm really excited about witnessing this historic event and know that we can expect many good things to come from the election of President Trump. Unfortunately, we can't expect relief in our fight against anti-public-employee legislation, as evidenced by the variety of troubling proposals pending across America.

Kentucky just became the 26th state to become a so-called right-to-work state, and there's a bill to do the same in New Hampshire. In Ohio, a single township is trying to become a right-to-work jurisdiction.

In Nebraska and Jacksonville, Florida, efforts are underway to force a switch from defined benefit pension plans to 401(k)-style accounts. In Iowa, a bill would make it illegal to negotiate health care benefits, while the governor of neighboring Illinois continues his crusade against public employees.

The worst piece of legislation comes from Missouri, where a proposal would mandate public disclosure of the local FOP leader's personal financial records, allow public employers to unilaterally declare they are facing financial issues and change the terms of previously binding contracts. Those are just the worst of many bad provisions.

I hope you're as alarmed as I am about these threats to your wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of working to keep our communities safe. We need your help to fight back. Please consider these steps that can really make a difference:

- Use all avenues, whether legal, legislative, labor or some combination. It's too important for any of us to just accept these harmful ideas.
- Organize with your fellow FOP members, active and retired. It will take all of you to win this fight, not just your local or state lodge president. Make sure you and other members are registered to vote! You must fight to win and you must fight together.
- Build coalitions with other public and private employee unions. Share costs and strategies, but never forget that your priority is your members.
- Talk to family and friends. You might

be very surprised to learn how far your and their influence spreads. After they realize you are on the right side of the issue, get them involved in writing letters and making calls. You need their help.

- Be prepared to spend money and rely on experts, if needed. Cops are not always the best at taking advice, but we need to understand that our job is to fight crime, not necessarily to be political experts. We need to listen to what experts tell us.

Please be safe! Please wear your vests and seat belts, watch out for each other, and pray for the fallen. **FOP**

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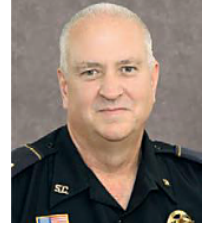
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# Unraveling the Very Fabric of America, One Peace Officer at a Time



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Patrick Yoes at (504) 234-4300, or [pyoes@fop.net](mailto:pyoes@fop.net).

Sixty-four law enforcement officers were murdered in firearms-related incidents in 2016, a 64% increase from the previous year. One-third of these murders were the result of officers being ambushed.

That is 64 families whose lives are forever changed. Sadly, this staggering statistic is no surprise to us in law enforcement. The job we do is full of risk and danger. It is a dirty job that requires us to put ourselves in harm's way and rush in to protect people we don't know, doing so with the full knowledge that it could cost us our lives.

We are ordinary people who answered the higher calling of public service, and at

times, we are called upon to do extraordinary things. We are on the front lines of a war between order and chaos in communities all across America. What we do is often rewarding and, at times, sheer terror. Yet, even after our worst day, we get up, put on our uniforms and head back out to do our duty.

So why has gun violence against police officers increased by 64%? The reasons are many, but two major factors dominate this trend. Neither are our doing.

One significant factor is the result of constant and relentless anti-police rhetoric that is fueled by 24-hour media sources. Cameras and lights shine on political pundits, celebrities and

use their status to throw fuel on the fire and then curse the very flames they have created. These same people cry real tears when a police officer dies in the line of duty, never once considering the consequences of their own actions.

Ignoring the rule of law and empowering hatred through senseless rhetoric is ripping apart the very fabric of America, one peace officer at a time. We need to stop allowing the media to negatively influence our lives and choose to examine the truth instead of blindly believing sensationalized opinions produced by those with the advantage of a national soapbox.

It's not America's peace officers who are to blame; it is the legitimacy and empowerment given to those who seek to undermine the rule of law and falsely do so in the name of social injustice.

Perhaps the greatest factor is the real social injustice: not recognizing and demanding solutions to the root causes that allow crime to run rampant. The most efficient way to combat crime has little to do with the police; it is to address the factors in society that help crime flourish — poverty, failing educational systems, disconnected youth and broken family units. These things are all fostering an ethos of violence and reverence for the materialism of pop culture.

Our nation and the very freedoms we as Americans take for granted are under siege. When a police officer is attacked, everyone's safety and freedom is attacked. To tackle this crisis, we need innovative ideas on how to curb the violent trends sweeping across America. We need social programs that address the problems of inner-city youth.

What we don't need more of are mayors and police chiefs standing down on the enforcement of laws to "give people space" to express themselves while their cities burn. This hug-a-thug mentality is not only misguided, it is deadly. It is creating a huge gray area on laws and the enforcement of these laws, which confuses the public and police officers alike. **FOP**

## BENEFITS OF FOP MEMBERSHIP

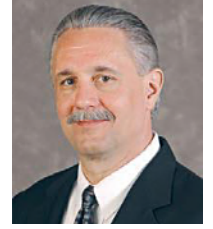


The Fraternal Order of Police is committed to improving the working conditions of officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement and employee representation. Here's a quick overview of the wide variety of services and benefits that the FOP offers to its members.

- **Legislative Office (political advocacy)**
- **Legal Defense Plan coverage**
- **Labor Services Division (negotiations support)**
- **National Peace Officers' Memorial Service**
- **FOP Journal and FOPConnect.com (communications)**
- **Education services and training programs**
- **National Fraternal Order of Police University (NFOPU)**
- **Charity partnerships**
- **Service provider discounts and special programs**

For more information on all of these programs, visit [www.fop.net](http://www.fop.net).





# Taking Financial Care of Your Lodge at Tax Time

// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Tom Penoza at [tomfop@aol.com](mailto:tomfop@aol.com).

Since it is tax season, I am writing again about tax-filing issues, as it is important for all lodges to be in compliance with the IRS. We now know, from the IRS, that we have several hundred lodges that have lost their 501(c)(8) tax-exempt status. If your lodge is one of them, it is subject to paying back taxes on much of the money it has taken in.

This article explains the basics on what tax forms your lodge has to file. You need to know if your lodge's tax-exempt status has been revoked. You can find out by contacting your local IRS office. If you don't have the information you need for the IRS to look it up, you can contact Angie Hoover in our Nashville office at (800) 451-2711, and she can tell you if you are on our list of 501(c)(8) lodges and what EIN we have for your lodge. If your lodge tax status has been revoked, you need to reapply and get the 501(c)(8) status back. The Grand Lodge accounting firm, Sasseti Certified Public Accountants, has been assisting our lodges in reapplying. If you contact Paul Curatolo at (708) 386-1433, he can give you information on what you have to do to reapply, or you can hire Sasseti to do it for you.

In 1952, the IRS issued a "group exemption" letter to the Grand Lodge on behalf of all of its affiliated lodges. The Grand Lodge must submit to the IRS each year a list of subordinate lodges that the Grand Lodge recognizes and believes should benefit from the Grand Lodge's tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(8). If a local or state lodge is listed by the Grand Lodge with the IRS as a subordinate lodge, that local or state lodge is excused from paying federal income tax on most kinds of income. Accordingly, a lodge should check with the Grand Lodge to determine whether its unit has been included in the group exemption list.

Even if it is exempt from federal income tax, **each lodge still has to file a tax return.** The tax return must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the lodge's fiscal year.

Starting in 2008, there is a new redesigned Form 990. You must use the new form for tax year 2010 and later tax years if gross receipts are greater than \$200,000 or if total assets are greater than \$500,000.

Form 990-EZ is a shortened version of Form 990. It is designed for use by small exempt organizations. A lodge may file Form 990-EZ instead of Form 990 for tax year 2010 and later if gross receipts

are greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000, and total assets are less than \$500,000.

**In the past, if a lodge had gross receipts in each tax year that were normally less than \$25,000, no tax return was required. Beginning in 2007, those lodges are required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ*. For tax year 2010 and later, Form 990-N must be filed by organizations with revenues up to \$50,000. FOP**

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# Hopes for a Safe and Successful Year



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Les Neri at [Ineri@pafop.com](mailto:Ineri@pafop.com).

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters,  
As we begin 2017, I hope and pray for a much safer year for our membership than we had last year. I am also hopeful for a better year for the positive image and support of law enforcement.

As we closed out 2016, many lodges throughout the country engaged in Christmas programs to assist the families of law enforcement officers injured or killed in the line of duty, as well as military families and the less fortunate residents of our communities. In one of the largest FOP programs I am aware of, 14 State Lodges coordinated their efforts and delivered approximately 20,000 toys and hundreds of holiday meals to deserving

families and individuals. I am sure that these caring acts of kindness will go far in helping to correct the false narrative about law enforcement that exists in our society today.

Additionally, at the close of 2016, we had two members retire from Grand Lodge employment who are best described as legends rather than employees. Hats off and congratulations to Labor Services Director Rick Weisman and Executive Director of Legislation Jim Pasco for jobs well done. I wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirements.

In order for any organization to grow, its leaders must continuously look for better, more efficient and more economical ways to deliver services to members.

Some of the areas within the Grand Lodge that must be constantly monitored for improvement are legislative services, communications with members, public relations and organizational events. These functions are part of the primary mission of our order, but they are also among the most expensive areas within our budget.

Legislative services is one of our founding missions and probably the most important thing we do as an organization. Lobbying on behalf of our members includes not only the development and introduction of legislation but also, even more importantly, monitoring and opposing any legislation that would negatively impact law enforcement officers.

Communication with the membership is an internal information function that includes our website, email, social media and magazine. These methods of communication should be evaluated for their timely delivery of relevant and useful information, as well as their cost-effectiveness.

Public relations is an external information function that should develop and present the national image and positions of our country's law enforcement officers. It should clearly identify and promote our belief that the FOP is the voice of law enforcement.

Organizational events include our yearly memorial service, board meetings and conferences. The efficient production and running of such events in a professional and cost-effective manner is vital to conducting the business of our order in a way that enhances the experience and participation of our membership and those attending such events.

In the past, all of these functions were solely performed by volunteers, committees or sometimes paid members. Today, however, with the complexities and specializations involved in these areas, the need for using the services of experts and consultants to assist us is not just strongly advisable, but critical if we want to succeed in the fulfillment of these functions for the good of our order. **FOP**

## COMING SOON

TO THE SUMMER ISSUE OF  
**FOP JOURNAL**

**63rd  
Biennial  
Conference  
Preview**

**Police Week  
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# The Rise in Line-of-Duty Shootings and Ambush Killings



// **WRITE TO US!** If you have further questions, contact Roger Mayberry at [bear1233@aol.com](mailto:bear1233@aol.com).

**A** look back at 2016 line-of-duty deaths: The top states were Texas with 19, California with 11, Louisiana with nine, Georgia with eight and Michigan with six; U.S. government agencies also had six. In total, these accounted for 59 of the 140 officers who gave their all.

The deadliest three months were November (21 deaths), October (17) and March (16). The top three causes of line-of-duty deaths were gunfire (64), auto accidents (23) and vehicular assault (12). The average age of the fallen officers was 41 and the average tour of duty was 13 years, three months; 134 were male and six were female.

The increase in ambush killings targeting law enforcement officers, which our members face every day, must come to an end. Sixty-four officers killed by gunfire in 2016 is a 64% increase over 2015, when 39 officers were killed. It's the highest number of gunfire deaths recorded since 2011, when the tally was 68.

Our members must continue to be alert and always looking over their shoulder, always worrying about the next attack and wondering if it will happen to them. Let's not forget that their families are now more aware than before of these same concerns. Never in my lifetime did I think that law enforcement officers could be killed simply because of the uniform they wear and the job they do. This is unacceptable. More than ever, we need to strive to turn this around and get back to the principles that this great country was founded on. Our members and all LEOs deserve better, and our politicians and city leaders need to start working to bring balance back to our public safety system. We have said more than once that we are willing to work with them to make it happen.

Some things we should be considering:

- Does this year's increase indicate that there is less respect for law enforcement these days?

- Some police officers say it's difficult to tell others what they do for a living. The day after Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election, some officers said they were hopeful that the new president would help restore law and order.
- The officers didn't feel safe identifying themselves or even being seen speaking to media. And when asked what they do for a living, they sometimes lie to avoid controversy.

If this is in fact what's being said, we need to be working to change this kind of thinking.

Here's a look at some of the most recent incidents in which suspects shot at officers.

- **December 16, Mount Vernon, Washington:** An officer in service for more than 30 years was shot in the head by a suspect in an hours-long standoff. The suspect, a 44-year-old man, and two teens were charged in the officer's shooting. Police said the man charged had eight previous felony convictions and is a known gang member.
- **December 12, Byron, Georgia:** A man was killed by police after shooting two officers who served him a search warrant. The incident happened just over a month after a sergeant and a deputy with Peach County died when they were shot by a suspect after responding to a neighbor dispute.
- **December 7, Americus, Georgia:** Students at Georgia Southwestern State University took shelter as police searched for a suspect who fatally shot two police officers when they responded to a domestic dispute at an apartment complex near the college campus. Police found the suspect dead the next day.
- **November 30, Tacoma, Washington:** Officers investigating a domestic violence call went to the home where it was happening, and one was shot multiple times. Shortly after arriving, officers called for backup. Reacting to the shots fired, officers entered the home and managed to get the wounded officer outside and to a hospital. The officer, who was not identified, died that night after undergoing surgery. The suspect, who used a boy and a girl to shield himself, was shot and killed after an 11-hour standoff.
- **November 18, Ludowici, Georgia:** A U.S. marshal died in a shootout at a mobile home after searching for a suspect, who was also killed in the shootout. The marshal was a deputy commander of the U.S. Marshals Service's Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force.
- **November 10, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania:** Two police officers who were approaching a home to check on a report of a domestic dispute were shot, and one of them, a 52-year-old father of four, died. The second officer had to be flown to a hospital for surgery. The suspect was later found dead, as was his pregnant wife. Officers said they had responded to multiple domestic disputes at the home in the past.
- **October 16, Fairbanks, Alaska:** A police officer was shot five times in his legs and once in the chest after responding to a shots-fired call in downtown Fairbanks. Shrapnel that struck the officer's bulletproof vest got lodged in his eye, and he died during surgery to remove that shrapnel. During the incident, the suspect not only shot the officer but stomped on his head, then stole his gun and his vehicle. The suspect was arrested two days after the incident, and a letter allegedly written by him admits to the shooting and says it was in retaliation for shootings of friends by Fairbanks police officers. **FOP**

BY CAPTAIN DARREN NORRIS



# MILITARIZED OR MODERNIZED?

Law Enforcement Equipment and Training  
Have Evolved to Meet Today's Threats





**A**s police officers are increasingly criticized for their appearance and actions, the mass media have highlighted — and demonized — law enforcement’s use of armored vehicles, heavy ballistic vests and other equipment, some of which is allocated to agencies through the Department of Defense. Critics argue that law enforcement has become militarized in both its equipment and its tactics. A more accurate analysis, however, is that our nation’s law enforcement agencies have simply acquired modern-day equipment to meet modern-day threats, utilizing advanced training techniques to save lives in any type of situation that may strike their communities, from conflicts to missing children to natural disasters.



A Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicle and a Yuneec Q500 Typhoon quadcopter (below) are among the modern tools utilized by the Richland County Sheriff’s Department in South Carolina.

## THE NEED TO BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED

When critics wonder “Why do the police need armored assault vehicles and machine guns?” a good response is to ask these three questions:

1. If your loved one was in an area that was exposed to hostile contact, would you want law enforcement officers to have the equipment and capabilities to conduct a safe and effective rescue?
2. If your loved one was the law enforcement officer, would you want them to have the needed equipment to safely and effectively do their job?
3. How much is one life worth — or, better yet, how much is **your** life worth?

The correct answer to the first two questions from anyone in their sound mind is “yes.” Many have been asked the third question after a tragic event that cost someone their life has already occurred. It is probably safe to assume that the answer didn’t come easy, if it came at all.

Unfortunately, the majority of lessons learned in law enforcement are learned through mistakes, many of which are due to lack of training and equipment. Over the years, there have been countless incidents where specialized equipment was needed but was simply not an issued option for the responding agency, and individuals were injured or killed as a result. There are also some calls that have tragic outcomes no matter what the response is. The “risk factor” or “X factor” of an incident is unpredictable, and calls for service can inherently go bad for responding personnel, sometimes without warning and with little reaction time. Given all these facts, there is absolutely no excuse for law enforcement officers to lack the proper training and equipment to enable them to mitigate any situation safely and effectively. This burden rests on the shoulders of law enforcement executives, local government



and community leaders, who must take the time to educate themselves on the benefits of the specialized training and equipment available to the agencies that serve their communities.

## EVOLVING THREAT TRENDS

Upgrading equipment and training for first responders gained popularity during the 1960s. One notable incident was the August 1, 1966, Texas Tower mass shooting. Charles Whitman, a 25-year-old Marine Corps veteran suffering from mental illness and acute fits of anger, heavily armed himself, ascended the tower at the University of Texas at Austin and shot 46 people, wounding 31 and killing 15. Responding law enforcement officers had no specialized training for this type of incident, and most were armed with revolvers and shotguns. Some of

them reportedly went home and retrieved their personal weapons to combat the deadly sniper threat.

Since then, mass shootings employing varied-caliber weapons have become sadly commonplace occurrences. Ambushes on officers, domestic and international terrorism, and natural disasters are just a few of the other rising trends that first responders are tasked with confronting. Today’s threat paradigm is dynamic and unforgiving, and law enforcement is expected to respond to any incident and handle any situation with textbook proficiency. The public’s expectations for success weigh heavily on all first responders — another reason they should be properly equipped and trained to do their jobs, with tools and methods that are equal to the task at hand.

## RESTRICTIONS ON LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

A major source of advanced gear for law enforcement is the federal government’s 1033 Program, which was created in 1997 when President Bill Clinton signed a law authorizing the

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## MILITARIZED OR MODERNIZED?

Continued from page 13 >

Department of Defense to transfer excess military equipment to civilian agencies. Since then, more than \$6 billion worth of property has been transferred to thousands of agencies nationwide, including rescue equipment, tools, rifles, clothing, medical supplies, utility vehicles, armored vehicles, generators, air frames and much more.

However, in the wake of the 2014 Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, and other recent controversies over police actions, the 1033 Program has come under fire from the public, the media and political figures. Critics of police were outraged that officers deployed military vehicles during the subsequent protests and riots in Ferguson. The media reported over and over how Ferguson police were patrolling the streets in military armored vehicles, and the follow-on stories detailed how law enforcement agencies across the nation obtain such vehicles through the 1033 Program. But according to a tactical supervisor who worked the entire Ferguson incident, the St. Louis County Police and Missouri Highway Patrol provided the tactical armored vehicles. The vehicles on scene included a Lenco BEAR and BearCat equipped with a Patriot System, both of which were purchased by their respective agencies and not furnished by the 1033 Program or any other type of government surplus program. In addition, few media outlets acknowledged the fact that armored vehicles and other advanced apparatuses are invaluable tools for protecting first responders and community members.

In January 2015, President Obama issued an executive order establishing the Law Enforcement Equipment Working Group (LEEWG) to address concerns that law enforcement was becoming too “militarized.” The group’s recommendations, which went into effect in October 2015, established controlled and prohibited equipment lists restricting the items available to law enforcement from federal agencies or using federal funding. Prohibited items included tracked armored vehicles, grenade launchers, and firearms or ammunition of .50 caliber or higher; controlled items included wheeled armored or tactical vehicles, breaching apparatuses and riot helmets.

The FOP and other law enforcement leaders have repeatedly pointed out that restricting the 1033 Program hampers the capabilities and effectiveness of many agencies, especially those

Armored vehicles were crucial in rescuing hostages when a gunman attacked a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs in 2015.



Photo courtesy of Lenco Armored Vehicles

with tactical units. For instance, in response to the June 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, law enforcement used a controlled explosion to distract the shooter and an armored vehicle to breach the walls, and one officer survived being struck in the head thanks to his ballistic helmet — yet at the same time all of this lifesaving equipment was considered “controlled” and made more difficult for departments to obtain. The FOP is hopeful that these restrictions will be rolled back by the new Congress and administration.

## MYTH VERSUS REALITY

There are many myths about law enforcement equipment. Some people believe that armored vehicles are assault vehicles used to wage war against the public, but the reality is that they are utilized to transport officers, provide ballistic protection for both officers and citizens during critical events, deter hostile acts toward officers and others, and navigate severe weather conditions. Similarly, critics may believe that heavy body armor is worn to intimidate, when its main purpose is to provide officers with a higher degree of ballistic protection and allows additional gear to be worn for efficient access. Rather than being used to spy on the public, helicopters equipped with infrared camera and lighting systems help law enforcement locate lost persons, provide aerial surveillance for ground officers during pursuits and searches, and perform rescues in areas that deny ground access, day or night. The purpose of weapons systems is not to kill people, but to provide a means for officers to defend themselves and others when ability, opportunity and jeopardy exist to utilize a warranted level of force. Specific weapons systems allow for precision engagement to effectively stop a threat and minimize the chance of collateral harm.

There are countless stories of how first responders utilizing advanced training and specialized equipment have saved lives in recent years. In Bozeman, Montana, in June 2015, a man barricaded himself in a hotel room with a small child and shot at responding officers. The Bozeman Police Special Response Team arrived with a BearCat, and the subject released the hostage and surrendered upon seeing the vehicle. When a gunman opened fire on a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs in November 2015, killing two civilians and an officer, law enforcement ended the resulting standoff by ramming an armored vehicle into the front of the building.

When a barricaded mentally ill individual opened fire on the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division’s SWAT team in May 2016, no officers were injured thanks to the armored vehicles protecting them.

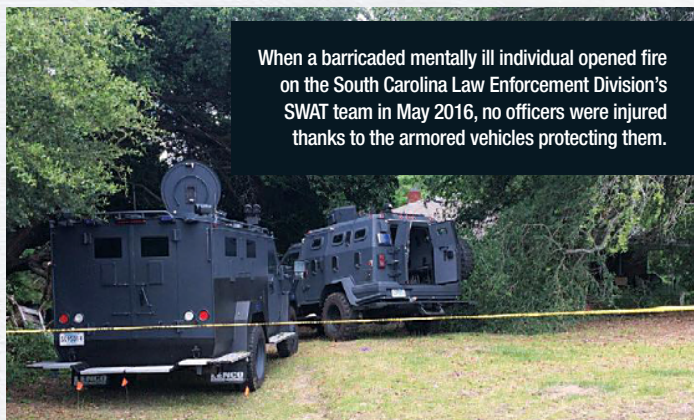


Photo courtesy of SLED

Continued on page 16 >





# You Are Invited

Come out to visit

# Chicago's K9s for Cops

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation invites America's police officers and their families to celebrate their fellow officers and the foundation in Chicago—all FOP families are invited.

See the Chicago Memorial Police Foundation's latest public art project. Chicago K9s for Cops statues are set to guard the Magnificent Mile from July 23 to Labor Day.

*You and your family can enjoy:*

- Special hotel rates
- Discounts at area restaurants
- Other planned activities



*Chicago is a great place for families to visit, with plenty to do and see!*

- Shopping on Chicago's Famous Magnificent Mile
- Award-Winning Restaurants
- Navy Pier's Ferris Wheel and Fireworks
- Grant Park and Maggie Daley Park
- Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum
- Chicago Cubs 2016 World Series Champions

**AND SO MUCH MORE!!**

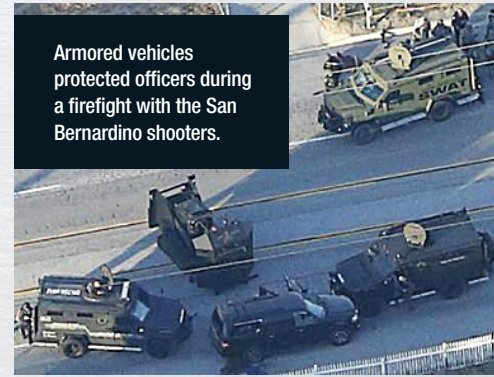
Police families can register today at [www.chicagok9s.com/join-us](http://www.chicagok9s.com/join-us) or for more information about special discounts and activities mentioned in this ad, visit [www.chicagoK9s.com](http://www.chicagoK9s.com) or call 630-890-5431.





The Richland County (S.C.) Sheriff's Dept. 1971 OH-58 helicopter was obtained from an active-duty army unit in 1999 and upgraded with state-of-the-art equipment, all without using taxpayer money.

could not approach, then directed officers through a high-speed vehicle pursuit on winding roads until the suspect was apprehended without incident. And agencies throughout the nation, including in Louisiana, West Virginia and North Carolina, have used surplus military vehicles in flooded areas to reach stranded drivers and rescue residents trapped in their homes.



## COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

Law enforcement officers are the guardians within every community. There is a hierarchy of life that is followed during all law enforcement responses: victims, other innocent persons, officers and suspects. Time and time again, officers knowingly place themselves in harm's way in order to protect the public, the majority of whom are total strangers. The availability of equipment and training plays a huge part in their success. Every feasible measure must be taken to ensure that the most modern tools and tactics remain available to public safety agencies.

*A member of South Carolina Lodge #1, Pelion Police Department Captain Darren Norris has over 27 combined years of military and law enforcement experience.*

### MILITARIZED OR MODERNIZED?

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allowing the civilians trapped inside to escape and leading the shooter to surrender. Following the December 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, law enforcement used armored vehicles for protection as they surrounded and approached the terrorists' heavily armed SUV; only one officer was injured in the shootout that killed both suspects.

This equipment is not only useful for minimizing loss of life in violent confrontations. In 2011, the Richland County Sheriff's Department in South Carolina used its infrared-equipped helicopter to locate a wanted armed robber in a rural area that ground units

# BRING SAFETY TO THE SCENE



Safety Vision's ICOP® PRO In-car system delivers 256GB of storage with mirror recording for additional video protection. Equipped with a multi-zoom windshield camera, an ultra-wide angle backseat camera, wireless mics and a power control monitor, the ICOP PRO is the ultimate Law Enforcement solution.

*Coming soon in October 2017, Safety Vision's new fully integrated and fully loaded body worn camera!*

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# // EQUIPMENT BEST PRACTICES



## ALLOCATION

Too often, agencies make the mistake of purchasing a piece of equipment without proper due diligence and having the appropriate agency personnel spend time adequately conducting training and evaluation (T&E) with the gear. Prior to purchasing any equipment, research the various manufacturers, contact agencies using the same or similar equipment to discuss their successes and failures, and have qualified personnel T&E the equipment and provide a written performance report to the chain of command. Cost will always be a factor with any purchase, but it must not be the primary deciding factor during the procurement process. There are numerous manufacturers of state-of-the-art equipment specifically designed for law enforcement applications, although these products often come at a substantial cost. One of the best sources is the federal government's 1033 Program; for further information, contact your state's 1033 Program manager.

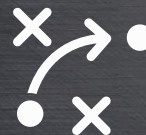


## TRAINING

Once any new piece of equipment has been added to an agency's inventory, all appropriate agency personnel must be properly trained in its operation. The tactics, techniques and procedures taught must always be legally sound, in line with the agency's policy as well as the manufacturer's recommendations. Remember, failure to train is one of the major liability issues faced in law enforcement.

## DEPLOYMENT

Most major law enforcement operations have potential to evolve into a major media event. This is especially the case with tactical operations. Conceptually, it is better to have something and not need it than to need it and not have it. With that said, high-profile apparatuses such as Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles and long guns should only be deployed when appropriate. Always gauge deployment necessity on the mission at hand and the threat level as the primary measuring tool; the safety of everyone should always be a higher priority than how an officer with a rifle will look on the news. However, common sense and good judgment should always be used. **FOP**



## Timepieces designed for high performance and high class from downrange to downtown.

This modest company is a labor of love for its founder, R.E. Smith and even wields his name. Founded in 2009, RESCO Instruments aspired to build a sleek, simple and rugged timepiece. This vision was realized with the production of the Gen1 "Patriot" model, which now graces the wrists of over 100 active duty US Navy SEALs including Resco's founder, R.E. Smith who is still in active service as a US Navy SEAL. The Gen1 Patriot line is the only watch that has been field tested through every phase of NSW training by actual operators who provided feedback and design input. We pride ourselves on being an American brand. All of our watches are designed, assembled and tested in Coronado USA and bear the name of our hometown on the base of the dial. Current RESCO Collections include our Gen1 Re-release, Gen2 Patriot, GMT Red Circle, BlackFrog, Manus Chronograph, Hooper and BullFrog Collection.

Visit our website to learn more today  
[www.RescoInstruments.com](http://www.RescoInstruments.com)



To all those who have gone downrange, we salute you!



# FORENSICS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH THESE HIGHER-ED PROGRAMS

**F**orensic science is the application of scientific methods to legal matters. Most of us are familiar with TV shows portraying forensic scientists collecting, examining and analyzing physical evidence in criminal investigations, such as blood spatter, fingerprints and hair samples — an area known as criminalistics. However, that image doesn't encompass the full extent and complexity of the field. Forensic science is used on both sides of criminal cases, as well as to resolve civil disputes and protect public health. Its many areas of interest include anthropology (skeletal remains), digital (photos, video and audio recordings), engineering (accidents and product failures), dentistry (tooth and bite mark identification), pathology (medical cause of death), questioned documents (handwriting and writing tools)

and toxicology (effects of drugs and chemicals on the body).

“There are so many aspects of forensics, from the lab to police scenes, and it's challenging no matter which field you choose to specialize in,” says Manassas Police Department Lieutenant Tara Petty, member of Virginia Lodge #43, who earned a master's degree in forensics from George Mason University in 2014.

Forensic science undergraduate and graduate studies are as varied as the field itself. While the more specialized disciplines may require degrees in science or medicine, other programs are designed with working law enforcement officers in mind, sometimes as concentrations within a criminal justice major.

Maitland Police Department Sergeant T. Stitt, president of Florida Lodge #155, says

that pursuing his master's in criminal justice with a concentration in crime analysis at Tiffin University has already had a positive effect in his daily duties: “The job is partially about self-confidence and being backed up with facts. It translates when dealing with the public and how I approach the command staff with new ideas and applications. It adds credibility to my ideas.”

“It adds to your résumé when testifying in court,” Petty concurs. “I think there's more value to my testimony now.”

Whether you're looking for a new career path, want to boost your promotion potential by adding an advanced degree to your credentials, or just want to better understand the technical side of criminal investigations, there's a forensics program to meet your needs.

### TIFFIN UNIVERSITY

[www.tiffin.edu](http://www.tiffin.edu)

**Degree:** Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Crime Analysis Concentration



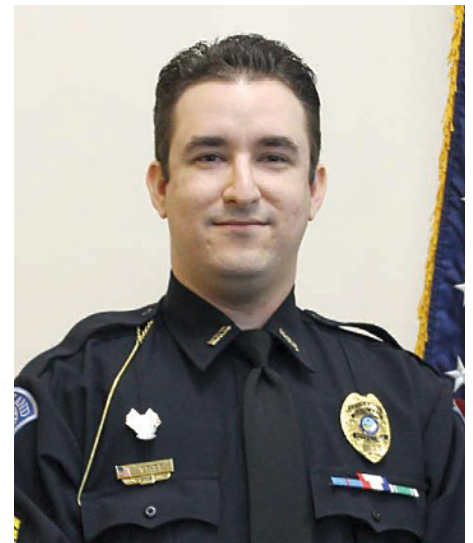
**Course sampling:**

Statistical Applications in Criminal Justice, Computer Applications in Crime Analysis, Geographic Information Systems: Applications in Criminal Justice

**Key components:** As an online program, the course schedule is asynchronous, meaning students determine how to manage studies in conjunction with ongoing professional and personal commitments.

**Faculty insight:** “Detectives or patrol officers who want a graduate degree in crime analysis can apply that information to the day-to-day job. By getting this degree, [officers] become more valuable to their agencies to figure out how to better use resources.” — *Lacy K. Ellis, Ph.D., assistant professor and graduate department chair, Criminal Justice & Security Studies*

**FOP member POV:** “My favorite class so far is Theories of Crime Analysis, which is the first class. The emphasis is on why crime happens, the opportunities for criminals and the psychological influence. You see things the way criminals see them, with the stats that support it.” — *Florida Lodge #155 president Sergeant T. Stitt, Maitland Police Department, current student*



Sergeant T. Stitt, Tiffin M.S. Crime Analysis student



## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

[www.eku.edu](http://www.eku.edu)

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science

**Course sampling:** Instrumental Analysis, Forensic DNA Analysis, Biochemistry of Macromolecules

**Key components:** This program is one of the oldest forensic science programs in the country, and one of 18 institutions accredited by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Enrollees opt into either a forensic chemistry or a forensic biology track.

**Faculty insight:** “Our program is very applied. We’re focusing on critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be applied to a suite of applications, including investigations. We also make sure our students are aware of ethical, legal and regulatory issues in forensic science.” — *Lori J. Wilson, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and Forensic Science Program director*

## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

[www2.gmu.edu](http://www2.gmu.edu)

**Degree:** Forensic Science Graduate Certificate and Master of Science in Forensic Science

**Course sampling:** Law and Forensic Science, Issues in Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Chemistry

**Key components:** In addition to 18 credits in forensics classes, students complete a forensics capstone course. As a member of an interdisciplinary team, they assess and evaluate a real-world crime scene, utilizing scientific, quantitative and legal analysis skills.

**Faculty insight:** “One of the nice things about the certificate is that it’s a minimal commitment. Within a year and a half, you have a graduate certificate in forensic science, and typically that can lead on to a master’s degree, which is a total of 36 credits.” — *Emily Rancourt, Forensic Science Program professor and assistant director*



Lieutenant Tara Petty, George Mason M.S. Forensic Science graduate

**FOP member POV:** “The school brought in staff who have been on the law enforcement side, but also on the scientific side. It’s a nice mixture. There are practical experiences for those who have worked crime scenes, and it’s nice to see they have some of the same thoughts and training as I do.” — *Virginia Lodge #43 member Lieutenant Tara Petty, City of Manassas Police Department, 2014 M.S. graduate*

## UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

[www.ucf.edu](http://www.ucf.edu)

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science

**Course sampling:** Forensic Microscopy, Trace Evidence, Genetics Laboratory

**Key components:** Graduates will absorb the core competencies required to practice as a professional forensic scientist. Their education includes preparation to testify in court proceedings.

**Faculty insight:** “Students who want to be a law enforcement officer choose this degree because they feel it gives them a deeper understanding of what happens once the evidence is off of the scene and into the lab for analysis.” — *Tamra Legron-Rodriguez, Ph.D., lecturer and Forensic Science undergraduate coordinator*



## GANNON UNIVERSITY

[www.gannon.edu](http://www.gannon.edu)

**Degree:** Master of Science in Criminalistics

**Course sampling:** Crime Mapping and Analysis, Interviewing and Dispute Resolution, Physical and Pattern Evidence

**Key components:** Rolling admission allows students to start at their convenience, and online classes work around other commitments. The program concludes with a week-long capstone project that enables students to utilize the state-of-the-art Forensic Investigation Center on campus.

**Faculty insight:** “Our goal is to give them hands-on experiences. How can you have hands-on experience online? We use a third-party vendor that sends lab kits to students at their homes. Students work on the kits, doing the experiments at home, and write up reports.” — *Jerry Clark, Ph.D., retired FBI special agent, assistant professor FOP*

For more forensic science programs and further insights from FOP members on their studies in the field, visit [www.fopconnect.com/education-connect](http://www.fopconnect.com/education-connect).





# NEXT-GEN GEAR

## CHECK OUT THESE NEW, INNOVATIVE AND HIGH-TECH LAW ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

From patrol to detectives to intelligence and counterterrorism, every aspect of policing benefits from some type of technology to identify, track and combat crime. After all, the criminal element increasingly employs technology to carry out its nefarious deeds — so it's critical that law enforcement agencies and professionals seek out the most innovative software applications, cameras, ammunition and protective gear to keep pace and get the job done.



### AERYON SKYRANGER UAS

#### *Eye in the Sky*

The intuitive and user-friendly controls of the Aeryon SkyRanger UAS make this drone an effective surveillance device. The design has been tested to withstand over 40-mph winds and sustain temperatures ranging from -22 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit, with a flight time of up to 50 minutes. The advanced streaming camera captures still images and video in HD quality or IR spectrum. Plus, the low-latency all-digital network permits encrypted streaming and embedded geotags and metadata. MSRP unavailable.

### SAFARILAND AND VIEVU BODY WORN CAMERA AUTO-ACTIVATION SYSTEM

#### *Holster! Camera! Action!*

Moments when a body camera is most needed are also potentially the most dangerous for police officers, who must not only assess and respond to critical scenarios, but also remember to manually activate the body camera. Thanks to Safariland's partnership with VIEVU, that step has been eradicated. With the Camera Auto-activation System, the VIEVU LE4 Body Worn Camera automatically begins recording as soon as a weapon is drawn from the Safariland 7TS duty retention holster. In fact, the camera records the preceding 30 seconds for a more complete video of an incident. MSRP unavailable.







## LASER AMMO USA SMOKELESS RANGE SIMULATOR

### Almost Real

Preparation in policing is everything, as is realism, which are the two key aspects of the Smokeless Range Simulator by Laser Ammo USA Inc. Debuted in January, this technology was created to help law enforcement and military personnel enhance their training opportunities conveniently at home. Using a projector (recommended), LCD TV or laptop, sharpen your skills with your favorite firearm or airsoft gun in the 10 included marksmanship and recreational drills, or download any of the thousands of shooting games available online. MSRP \$399.

## PROTECH TACTICAL BARK-9 CARRIER

### Head-to-Tail Protection

Why should human officers be the only ones protected when police canines pull dangerous duty, too? The Protech Tactical Bark-9 Carrier is tailored armor to cover police dogs. Wear-tested in the field, the carrier allows for maneuverability as well as speed. The 420-denier Cordura diamond ripstop nylon keeps dogs comfortable and cool, while the modular web platform supports video equipment. MSRP \$1,410–\$2,050.



## PHALANX DEFENSE SYSTEMS LEFT-HAND STEALTH OPERATOR SERIES HOLSTER

### When Left Is Right

Your preferred hand for shooting shouldn't impair your access to or use of firearms. After receiving numerous requests for a left-handed version of its popular Stealth Operator Series Holster, Phalanx Defense Systems LLC released one last fall. Like its predecessor, the new left-handed compact holster is universal for more than 155 handgun makes and models, with the same rugged construction and low-profile, lightweight design. MSRP \$39.95.



## KOPIS MOBILE NTTV

### A Tactical Network

Kopis Mobile created the Networked Tactical Television (NTTV) to empower police and military personnel to use smartphones as a tactical tool by providing a cost-effective way for small units to share video. It can be worn by officers, dogs or robots for a real-time street-level view; placed on vehicles or drones for a 360-degree overwatch system; or mounted on buildings for perimeter surveillance. Connect with any type of camera (including GoPro, Sony or night-vision) and view multiple video streams on any smart device via a wireless connection. Apps are available for Android, iPhone and Blackberry devices, or use the VLC media player on any Android, iPhone, PC, Mac or Linux machine. Records up to 30 hours of video and weighs just over 2 pounds total. MSRP \$28,999 for four-person tactical system; discounts available for law enforcement. **FOP**

For more high-tech products, go to



# SMALLER, LIGHTER, BRIGHTER

## TACTICAL FLASHLIGHTS GET LEAN AND MEAN IN 2017

Size doesn't matter when it comes to tactical flashlights; even the most compact torch can pack quite a punch. Manufacturers are touting this year's bumper crop of tactical flashlights as smaller, lighter and brighter than ever before. Lumen blowback is a thing of the past. Clunky gun mounts have vanished. Battery-eating beasts are gone. If you haven't upgraded your tactical torch in a while, now is the time to invest in a new piece.



### **VOIDHAWK**

#### **T-Rex T3**

*Big Lens, Bigger Beam*

Do you know how difficult it is to find a flashlight that can cover both long-range wide angles with trusted coverage and short-range compact spots without blowback? It just got easier. The Voidhawk T-Rex T3 features a precision optical zoom head that can shift from an ultra-wide field flood light to a focused spot beam, or any range in between. At its highest glow, this light blasts out more than 1,100 lumens. The T-Rex T3 also has incredible battery life with its rechargeable 3.7-volt lithium-ion battery, and each cell lasts for 800 recharge cycles. An optional extension tube enables it to run on 3x 26650 lithium-ion batteries, which extends its run time by 50%. MSRP \$89.95 (sale pricing, subject to change).



### **MAGLITE**

#### **MAG-TAC LED Rechargeable System**

*Take Charge*

The MAG-TAC LED Rechargeable System by Maglite promises superior build quality and a long service life in a complete and economical package. The high-capacity lithium iron phosphate rechargeable battery charges in 2.5 hours on the included mountable base, which can be powered by a 12v adapter or 120v converter or via a standard USB cable, all also included. The Quick-Click mode selector lets officers operate the four illumination settings with only one finger. The MAG-TAC also comes with a detachable pocket clip, and at just 5.5 ounces with batteries, this is one of the lightest lights in our bunch. MSRP \$73.61 (department direct price).





## PELICAN 7600 LED Tactical Flashlight

### *Night-Vision-Friendly*

At just 6 inches long, this Pelican torch packs a mighty punch: 900 lumens of brilliant white light, anti-reflective coated glass lens, four performance modes — including high, strobe, medium and low — five selectable programs, sturdy aluminum body, and USB rechargeable lithium ion battery (although it can also run on disposable CR123 batteries). But what makes the 7600 such a reliable law enforcement flashlight is its colored LED lights that turn it into a multifunctional must-have. Red and green LEDs turn on with a twist of a switch, perfect for assignments where night vision is needed, or for traffic control with an optional slip-on wand. MSRP not available.



## POWERTAC X10000 Destroyer

### *Extra-Bright, Extra-Far*

Can you imagine a single light reaching the length of seven football fields? That's exactly what the PowerTac X10000 Destroyer can do. Designed to be the ultimate search and rescue (or apprehension) handheld flashlight, it produces an amazing 10,500 lumens at its high and strobe settings to stop suspects in their tracks. The X10000 Destroyer throws light up to 738 yards, with an impressive floodlight as well as a tight center beam to illuminate objects both near and far. This powerful torch comes with five settings (low, medium, high, strobe and SOS). To help prevent overheating, it's made from Type III anodized aluminum and has a built-in waterproof cooling fan. Integrated rechargeable 8-cell circuit-protected 18650 lithium-ion battery pack (replaceable). MSRP \$689.95.

## SAFARILAND RLS Light System

### *Smooth Rail Glide*



The Safariland Group's RLS Light System solves the problem of carrying two essential items at once — a flashlight and a gun — which aren't often easy to operate separately in high-stress situations. This genius of this product is that it can work as a solo flashlight or in tandem with your weapon as a tactical device. With LED technology, the RLS provides 190 lumens in a high, focused beam or 10 lumens on low. It uses just three inexpensive and universally available AAA batteries, so there's no fumbling with recharging stations or cords. The two-hour runtime on high is useful, and a simple push-button control switch makes turning illumination on or off a snap. But the true beauty lies in the flashlight's mount, which slides onto any compact light or Picatinny rail and features a unique locking system that fastens into place by swinging to the right or left. An RLMSM duty mount is also included, for attaching to 2–2.25-inch belts. MSRP \$118.



## STREAMLIGHT Strion DS Compact Dual- Switch Handheld Flashlight

### *Quick Change*

Streamlight's re-envisioned Strion DS provides multipurpose versatility in a small package. Dual-switch technology allows you to choose from the push-button tail switch or the head-mounted switch, both of which operate independently. TEN-TAP programming lets you select one of three different programs: high/medium/low with strobe (factory default), high only without strobe or high/medium/low without strobe. The lithium ion battery can be recharged up to 1,000 times and only takes three hours to fully recharge. And the anti-roll head prevents your torch from making a getaway when you set it down. MSRP \$147.60. **FOP**

For more flashlights, go to  [FOPconnect.com](https://www.FOPconnect.com)



# 115th Congress Sworn in; FOP Supports AG Nominee

At this writing, the 115th Congress, having been sworn in and seated, is in its first full week of business. Republicans retained control of both the House and the Senate. Representative Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) was re-elected as the speaker of the House, and it was announced that Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) will continue to serve as majority leader. Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) will continue to serve as minority leader and minority whip, respectively.

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) retains his position of majority leader, and Senator Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) will serve as minority leader.

Much of the activity in the Senate for the coming weeks will be considering the cabinet nominees of the incoming Trump administration. The FOP immediately announced our strong support for Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) to be the next U.S. attorney general.

## FOP President Testifies Before Senate in Support of Sessions

National President Chuck Canterbury appeared before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to voice the wholehearted and full-throated support of the Fraternal Order of Police for Senator Sessions to be the next attorney general of the United States.

President Canterbury shared a panel with former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey and former Deputy U.S. Attorney General Larry Thompson. In his testimony, he told the committee that Senator Sessions “was a leading co-sponsor of the FOP’s efforts to enact the Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act, which was authored by our friend and former chairman of this committee, Pat Leahy. In 2010, Senator Sessions was the Republican lead co-sponsor of S. 1132, the Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act

### Just the Facts:

» As the new Congress got down to business, FOP President Chuck Canterbury testified in support of Senator Jeff Sessions’ confirmation as attorney general, noting that he has a history of standing up for law enforcement. All previous bills must now be reintroduced in this session, and the FOP is working hard on top priorities such as the Social Security Fairness and Law Enforcement Officers’ Equity acts, as well as legislation to expand hate crimes laws to protect law enforcement officers.

Improvements Act, which made important and needed changes to the original law passed in 2004. Senator Sessions provided real leadership to make the legislation a successful, bipartisan effort.

“He has a 20-year record of bipartisanship and widespread support among our nation’s law enforcement

country tirelessly and faithfully for the majority of his adult life. He is, above all else, a man who reveres the law and reveres justice. I believe that he will be an exemplary U.S. attorney general with whom we will have a productive partnership. The men and women serving in law enforcement will be proud to have Senator Sessions as our top cop.”

**“I BELIEVE THAT [SESSIONS] WILL BE AN EXEMPLARY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH WHOM WE WILL HAVE A PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP,” SAID PRESIDENT CANTERBURY.**

officers. On more than one occasion, Senator Sessions was among the few in standing up for law enforcement, especially when it came to the issue of asset forfeiture. Without his leadership and support, the equitable sharing program might well have been dismantled, leaving thousands of law enforcement agencies without the resources to cooperate with federal task forces and other multijurisdictional efforts to combat trafficking in drugs, humans and weapons.

“Senator Sessions has served this

## Working to Reintroduce FOP Priorities

With the new Congress, all bills previously introduced must be reintroduced. During the break and in the first weeks of the 115th Congress, staff in the National Legislative Office have been working Capitol Hill to ensure that our top legislative priorities and other bills important to our members are reintroduced.

Staff has met with Representative Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), the sponsors of the Social Security Fairness Act in the 114th Congress. The legislation would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) as well as the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Our members should monitor our website, as we expect these bills to be introduced in the next few weeks.

We have also met with staff in the offices of Representative Peter King (R-N.Y.) and Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) to discuss the reintroduction of



the Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act. This legislation would expand the definition of "law enforcement officer" for salary and retirement benefits to include all federal law enforcement officers.

### FOP's Hate Crimes Proposal

Staff in the National Legislative Office worked diligently over the break and in the opening days of the new Congress to build bipartisan support for the FOP's proposal to expand current federal hate crimes laws to protect law enforcement officers. We are working hard to get this legislation introduced early on in this session, in both the House and the Senate.

### Final Actions in the 114th Congress

The following bills supported by the FOP saw action in the final days of the 114th Congress:

- H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act, was passed under a suspension of the rules on a 258-101 vote. The bill would have enhanced the ability of law enforcement to combat synthesized drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues

are to be regulated. The bill died in the Senate.

- S. 2348, the Rapid DNA Act, was passed by the Senate just prior to the long recess. The bill, which would have improved the use of DNA evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions, died in the House.
- S. 2944, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Improvements Act, was passed by unanimous consent. The bill, which was a priority for the FOP, would have addressed problems at the PSOB Office with respect to transparency and accountability, but it died in the House.

The FOP will be working with our friends and allies on these bills, as well as all the bills we supported in the 114th Congress that were not enacted into law.

### Follow Us on Twitter!

Sign up today at <https://twitter.com/FOPLegislative> for the latest news from Capitol Hill. **FOP**

// **FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact the National Legislative Office at (202) 547-8189.

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# Social Media and Police Investigations

In December 2015, Christopher Dudding was arrested for identity theft and forging checks. Investigators posted several surveillance photos of Dudding on Facebook, which resulted in a tip that directly led to Dudding's arrest.

The Dudding case is not unique. Social media is a tool frequently used for criminal investigations. In fact, LexisNexis reports that as many as 80% of surveyed federal, state and local law enforcement agencies use social media to gather information during investigations, and those agencies indicated that social media enables them to solve crimes more quickly. Some law enforcement agencies have resorted to creating fake profiles in an attempt to dupe suspects into providing self-incriminating information. Although most social media outlets disallow creating fake profiles, evidence gathered through this method has been held to be valid. In *U.S. v. Gatson*, the Sixth Circuit denied a motion to suppress evidence collected from the defendant's Instagram profile after he connected with a fake account created by a local law enforcement agency. The court held that no search warrant was required for the consensual sharing of the type of information the defendant had "unknowingly" shared with the officer.

Law enforcement agencies' ability to use social media outlets for investigative purposes is not always approved of by the courts. In *Arquiett v. U.S.*, the plaintiff received a \$134,000 settlement from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration because the DEA used her identity to create a fake Facebook account from information found on her phone, which was seized after she was arrested.

Social media is also used by agencies to investigate officer misconduct, including abuse of sick leave or posting "inappropriate" comments or images. In these and a host of other possible situations, agencies

## Just the Facts:

» Social media can be both a helpful professional tool and a personal risk for law enforcement officers. 80% of agencies surveyed reported using social media to investigate crimes and solve them more quickly. However, agencies are also gaining access to their employees' personal social media accounts to investigate misconduct. Officers should use extreme discretion when posting, even on password-protected sites.

have gained access to officers' personal social media sites.

Laws and regulations restricting employers' access to their employees' personal social pages are relatively new. In

**THE LESSON OF THESE CASES IS SIMPLE: DO NOT POST ANYTHING ON THE INTERNET THAT YOU WOULD NOT PLACE ON YOUR CHIEF OR MAYOR'S DESK.**

2012, states began enacting laws prohibiting employers from demanding password information for their employees' personal social media accounts. Currently, 23 states have enacted legislation prohibiting employers from requiring employees to disclose their passwords for their personal social media accounts.

Regardless of whether there are such laws, officers should exercise extreme discretion and caution when posting on social media sites, even when their accounts are password-protected. Of the 23 states that prohibit employers from requiring employees to disclose their password information for their personal sites, 16 allow an exception for employers who

are investigating work-related misconduct or violations of local, state or federal law.

Social media pages that are not password-protected are at an even bigger risk of being subject to employer review and possible discipline regarding employee work-related misconduct. According to a 2016 article in the *Clarion-Ledger*, a Tupelo, Mississippi, police officer was terminated for criticizing the mayor, the police chief, the use of body cameras and the Black Lives Matter movement on his Facebook page. The City conceded that the officer was free to express himself as any other citizen might, and still concluded that his speech impaired the department. Regardless of the City's justification, the point is that the basis for the termination was the posting of comments on a Facebook page that the City was able to access.

The lesson of these cases is simple: Do not post anything on the internet that you would not place on your chief or mayor's desk. The public nature of the internet, including in password-protected areas, is such that almost nothing is out of reach — and it can and will be used against you. **FOP**

**// WRITE TO US!** You can reach the Division of Labor Services at 701 Marriott Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214; (800) 451-2711; or [fopdl1s1@fop.net](mailto:fopdl1s1@fop.net).





# Notary Issues in the 21st Century

We have seen a number of attorneys and clients run into notary issues of late. The lawyer often ends up facing disciplinary problems with his or her bar association, and the document upon which the client relied is invalidated with negative consequences.

To avoid such difficulties, we offer some of our findings. As you will see, these notary issues are nationwide.

- In July 2011, Ohio Attorney General DeWine issued a directive that specifically prohibits Ohio notaries from performing notarizations via webcam or video. DeWine stated that the procedure did not satisfy the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requirement for “personal appearance.” The relevant sections are 147.54 and 147.541, which require that “the person acknowledging **appeared before** the person taking the acknowledgment” (ORC § 147.541[A]). The phrase “appeared before” has been interpreted by DeWine and Ohio courts to mean that the person must be physically present. The court in *Marshall v. Scalf*, 2007 Ohio App. LEXIS 3373, addressed the issue of notarization based upon a recorded video, stating that viewing a recorded videotape of someone signing a deed was not enough to satisfy RC § 147.53, because the deed needed to be signed “in her presence.” The court ruled that viewing a videotape does not count as “in one’s presence.” Unfortunately, *Marshall* involves a recorded videotape and not a live webcam. The argument that a webcam satisfies ORC § 147.541(A) is much more convincing than the same argument involving a recorded videotape. Ohio courts have yet to address this issue with live webcams.
- In July 2012, Virginia enacted a law that allows notaries to notarize a

## Just the Facts:

» Nationwide notary-related legal issues include questions of whether documents may be notarized if the signer is not physically present — for example, via recorded video or live webcam. States differ on allowing or prohibiting this practice, and although it may eventually become more widely accepted as society becomes increasingly mobile and technology-driven, attorneys and clients are advised to know and follow the laws of their state.

document even if the signer is not physically present with the notary public, as long as there is enough evidence to prove the signer’s identity. This might include webcam, signature match and other means of verification. To provide this service, the notary must have a special certification and state-approved equipment.

## ONE CONCERN ABOUT VIDEO AND WEBCAM NOTARIZATIONS IS THAT THE “VIDEO SIGNER” COULD BE SIGNING UNDER COERCION, WITH SOMEONE OFF-CAMERA POSING A THREAT TO THEM.

- In October 2015, Montana began permitting its notaries to perform webcam notarizations under specifically defined circumstances. For one, notaries are required to identify signers through either their own personal knowledge of the individual or the use of a credible witness. Also, the transaction must meet specific requirements and the signer must be a legal resident of Montana for

all but one of these transactions. If these requirements are met, then any document, paper or electronic, may be notarized with the signer and notary appearing via video and audio technology.

- Florida also authorized webcam notarizations, but is limiting the practice to certain law enforcement and correctional officers who are authorized to administer oaths and affirmations.
- Louisiana may be next to adopt some form of webcam notarizations, as the Louisiana legislature directed the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and examine the practice of e-notarization, including webcam e-notarizations. The Institute is scheduled to deliver a report and recommendations regarding its study by February 2017, which notary experts believe may shape the future of the practice in the state.

One concern about video and webcam notarizations is that the “video signer” could be signing under coercion, with someone off-camera posing a threat to them. However, this is really no different than the fact that someone who walks into a notary’s office could have been coerced in the parking lot or at a previous location.

In today’s mobile society, it may only be a matter of time until webcam notarizations are acceptable. Until then, be certain that you and your attorney are complying with the laws of your state. **FOP**





# Law Enforcement Suicide Intervention

I am a Philadelphia police sergeant with almost 28 years of experience. Like most cops, I have been up, down and sideways on this job. At one of my low points, after being involved in a shooting on the job in late 1995, I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Throughout my career, I have also faced several other life-threatening experiences. After receiving treatment for PTSD, I learned that you can recover — and not only recover, but also come back to work stronger and with a sharper skill set that makes you a better, more perceptive cop. My experience made me realize that **no cop should ever have to walk alone**. I wanted to help make that a reality, so I attended trainings, chased after certifications and started helping other cops get help. One of the things that really bothered me was working in an environment in which cops felt like they had no one to talk to. Eventually, other officers and I banded together to start programs in Philadelphia where cops can use peer support to get to professional help. Two of the more successful programs I have been involved in are the Law Enforcement Peer Support Network ([www.lepsn.org](http://www.lepsn.org)) and the First Responder

Addiction Treatment (FRAT) program ([www.responderaddiction.com](http://www.responderaddiction.com)). You, too, can start programs and have help on standby for your brothers and sisters.

The reason I started with information about PTSD and substance abuse is because — especially for police officers — they are often precursors to suicidal ideation. I have also learned that cops often handle trauma on the job and in their personal lives simultaneously. We

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**THE SAME OFFICERS WHO ARE ABLE TO PERFORM WELL IN A CRISIS INVOLVING A CITIZEN OFTEN STRUGGLE WITH APPROACHING A BROTHER OR SISTER OFFICER.**

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are natural crisis interveners and almost always act appropriately and heroically. Based on research data from police suicides, we have learned that many of the officers had at least three major life issues going on at the same time. For instance, an officer may have abused alcohol (issue one), been going through a divorce (issue two) and discovered that he or she was facing disciplinary action at work (issue three). These are just examples; it could be a combination of many different things. The collection of these issues made many of the officers feel out of control, desperate and in mental pain that they felt would never stop. Another serious issue when it comes to suicidal police officers is that cops almost always use a gun, so the fatality rate is extremely high.

Based on our training and experience as police officers, I do not have to tell you the signs and symptoms that indicate

someone is at risk of suicide. What I do have to point out is that we go out on the street every day and help people with many problems intuitively and without flinching. But the same officers who are able to perform well in a crisis involving a citizen often struggle with approaching a brother or sister officer who is showing signs that they are at risk of suicide. Here is my most important push: If you feel that a cop you work with is in danger of attempting suicide, **have the courage to ask your co-workers if they are going to kill themselves**. Look them right in the eye when you ask that question, and don't leave them alone for a moment. It is also important not to change or soften the question. When an officer is in danger, your duty is to stay with them until professional help arrives or you get them to professional help. While you are with the officer, try to have a positive conversation that points out the officer's good qualities to turn the light back on at the end of the tunnel. People in that desperate state are in a "crisis window," and once they get past that state, they usually recover with follow-up treatment.

Two of the best training programs I have participated in are In Harm's Way, sponsored by St. Petersburg College (<http://policesuicide.spcollege.edu>), and Badge of Life ([www.badgeoflife.com](http://www.badgeoflife.com)). Many great resources are listed on both programs' pages, and you can always call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at (800) 273-8255 for guidance.

I have also traveled the country for the FOP and have taught police suicide prevention, and I'm here to help. If I can be of assistance, email me at [andycallaghan@fop.net](mailto:andycallaghan@fop.net). Please be careful out there and back each other up!

*Andy Callaghan is a Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP) and a member of Pennsylvania FOP Lodge #5. FOP*

## HELPING HEROES

The FOP Foundation supports our members in distress.

You can also help the brave men and women who risk their lives every day.

Visit [www.FOP.net](http://www.FOP.net) for more information and to donate online.

The Disaster Relief Fund is part of the National FOP Foundation, a 501(c)(3), not for profit corporation.



# We Know a Lot Because We've Accomplished a Lot

The membership of our organization has an obligation to share its past with current and future members. "Our history is a great recruiting tool for us," stated Past President and current History Committee member Dewey Stokes.

From Past National President Delbert Nagy to current President Chuck Canterbury, the Fraternal Order of Police has witnessed growth, accomplishments and change. An organization's history, whether governmental, private or fraternal, is important to its members. It is necessary to understand and appreciate the progress and evolution of our great order. We have seen the FOP grow from the first 23 officers who

**IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE PROGRESS AND EVOLUTION OF OUR GREAT ORDER.**

bravely attended the first-ever meeting on May 14, 1915, at the Wabash Building on Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh to membership exceeding 330,000.

Delbert Nagy designed our initial logo in 1915 but summoned his friend, artist H.J. Garvey, to assist. Garvey added the double circle, the eye and the Pittsburgh coat of arms.

The Grand Lodge was founded in December 1916, and went into effect in 1917. The first National Conference was held in Pittsburgh on October 15–17 of that year.

The very first Ladies Auxiliary, known as the "Ladies Auxiliary to Fort Pitt Lodge #1," was founded in 1920. The Grand Lodge Auxiliary came about in 1941, with Kathryn Milton serving as the first president.

The FOPA (associates lodge) was formed on August 27, 1957.

President John F. Kennedy signed a bill into law on October 1, 1962, proclaiming May 15 of every year to be designated as "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

The Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) was signed into law in 1976, affording a \$50,000 death benefit for public safety officers killed in the line of duty. The FOP fought long and hard for this much-deserved legislation, which was amended in 1991 and has increased every year for several years. The death benefit for 2017 is \$343,589.

The FOP worked diligently to make National Police Officers Memorial Day every May 15 in Washington, D.C., a reality in 1982.

In 1993, we acquired our National Legislative Office in Washington, D.C., located at 309 Massachusetts Avenue. In 1995 we hired Jim Pasco to serve as our lobbyist. We later bought another property in D.C.

In 2004, President George W. Bush signed into law House Bill 218, allowing police officers, active or retired, to carry concealed weapons throughout the country.

In February 2007, we dedicated our new building, the Fraternal Order of Police National Headquarters, in Nashville.

Meanwhile, regional coalitions were formed in the east, west and south. Federal officers formed their own coalition in 1995, with their local lodge based out of D.C.

Some of these milestones will be written about in greater detail in future issues of the National *FOP Journal*.

**Please share this with your younger members or prospective members!**

Members of the History Committee: Dewey Stokes, Ohio; Bill Nolan, Illinois; and Adolf South, Alabama.

*James Flores is the Chairman of the National FOP History Committee and a member of Albuquerque Lodge #1. FOP*



## EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

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# Chicago Public Art Campaign Honors Injured and Fallen Officers

In Chicago, a small but mighty foundation works diligently to raise funds for the families of officers killed or injured in the line of duty and to build bridges between citizens, business leaders and police officers. One way it accomplishes this difficult task is through art.

Early in 2004, former Chicago Police Superintendent Phil Cline started the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for the purpose of building a memorial park to honor Chicago's fallen and their families. Then, Cline's agenda became the "mission beyond the memorial." Today, the foundation works to meet the various needs of the families of catastrophically injured and fallen police officers. To date, the foundation has awarded families more than \$8 million to cover costs from schools and medical expenses to sports activities, helping to add a sense of ease and normalcy to their daily lives.

As a fundraising initiative, the group created the Horses of Honor public art installation. For two summers, larger-than-life, beautifully painted fiberglass police horses lined Chicago's famous Magnificent Mile, attracting positive attention to the foundation's cause. The group raised more than \$800,000 from the campaign. In 2015, the band Chicago sponsored a horse painted by Officer Peter Bucks and held a press conference to auction off the much-loved horses.

Now, the foundation has launched the Chicago K9s for Cops public art campaign. This initiative is in partnership with PAWS Chicago, a no-kill animal shelter. Part of the proceeds will benefit Chicago's K9 officers through the purchase of canine police vests and animals in lower-income neighborhoods.



These statues are fashioned after traditional German shepherd canine officers and, like the figures in the Horses of Honor campaign, will be painted by artists. Businesses and individuals will sponsor the artwork, and the Chicago K9s will guard the Magnificent Mile from July 23 to Labor Day.

**THE K9S WILL GUARD THE MAGNIFICENT MILE FROM JULY 23 TO LABOR DAY. AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THEIR FELLOW OFFICERS IN CHICAGO.**

This year, America's police officers and their families are invited to celebrate their fellow officers and the foundation in Chicago — all FOP families are welcome. Deep discounts at participating hotels and restaurants are available. Other activities for police officers and their families are also being planned. More information can be found at [www.ChicagoK9s.com](http://www.ChicagoK9s.com). **FOP**



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David Blake, CJM Graduate



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