



The Nebraska Sheriff

A Publication of the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association



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NEBRASKA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME AWARD

Douglas County Sheriff, Tim Dunning, was elected in 1994 after defeating 16-year incumbent Richard Roth and is now the longest running Sheriff in Douglas County history having served 24 years as Douglas County Sheriff....None of the many improvements and accomplishments at the DCSO would have been possible without the support and leadership of Sheriff Dunning; he is truly on the cutting edge of law enforcement. I am proud and honored to nominate Sheriff Timothy F. Dunning for induction into the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association – Hall of Fame. **Full story on pages 10-11.**

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More on the 2019 NBA award recipients on pages 10-11 and 14-15.

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Only submitted articles pertinent to criminal justice, law enforcement, and NSA members will be featured.

We will accept articles from law enforcement agencies, their representatives, or related fields to be considered for publication in the magazine.

Photographs of minors must be accompanied by verifiable permission to publish and list their names, whether the photo is emailed or sent through USPS.*

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content or space.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please let us know about them.

The Nebraska Sheriff Magazine
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www.nebraskasheriffs.com

The Nebraska Sheriffs' Association website has all the county sheriffs' contact information, links to dates of special training offered to law enforcement in Nebraska, links to county websites, and much, much more. There are also special businesses that help to sponsor this website with their ads. It pays to be a member.

NSA Office & The Nebraska Sheriff Magazine

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For four days this fall, professionals from across the state will come together in Kearney to take advantage of leading educational programming and an exhibit hall offering tools, ideas, and products applicable to their everyday work lives.

Be sure to mark October 6-9, 2019, on your calendar now. The deadline for early registration is August 31, so take a few minutes today to complete the registration form in this brochure.

We look forward to seeing you in Kearney!

OCTOBER 6-9, 2019

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The **Nebraska**Sheriff

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The Nebraska Sheriffs' Association,
established in 1894, is the oldest
organization of its kind in the nation.

Mission Statement

To provide continuing education to
Sheriffs' Offices, youth, and the public in
general.

Nebraska Sheriffs' Association

2018-2019 President
Michael Robinson, Washington County

NSA Office & The Nebraska Sheriff Magazine

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Please feel free to contact us with any
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magazine.

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“ **Dedicated to the youth
of Nebraska.** ”

Committed to Nebraska Youth for over 124 years! In its mission statement, The Nebraska Sheriffs' Association has included “dedicated to the youth of Nebraska.” Over the years, association members have consistently worked to educate children and teens on the dangers of distracted driving and drug and alcohol abuse.

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THE DEATH OF PROACTIVE POLICING WILL LEAD AMERICANS TO MORE GRAVESITES

There are two major reasons why the death of proactive policing (cops doing more to control crime) will erode public safety, thus leading Americans to more gravesites.

First, whatever force controls the streets reduces all others as subordinate—even the police. Second, when police officers become reactive versus proactive, their skills erode and fewer career criminals are caught preying on others.

CONTROLLING THE STREETS

Where lawlessness prevails, the innocent suffer. It's a fact of life. Is there a single example in history that contradicts this statement?

When fair-minded police officers saturate a problem area, criminals flee. As a result, they relocate to more inviting playgrounds. Any jurisdiction that has developed a "hands off" approach to policing will be their playground.

For example, a skating rink in a particular beat in my city became a hub for gangsters to hangout. Before long, we experienced several shootings within a confined geographical space. Consequently, we saturated the area with patrol units and undercover cops. It wasn't long before the bangers had to scatter like rats. We simply made them uncomfortable using legal means and they left.

UNDEVELOPED OR ERODING SKILLS

The most enjoyable assignment I had was as a detective in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Working in an undercover capacity, we'd receive tips regarding criminal activity from confidential informants.

Once we corroborated information from the intelligence, we'd follow the people that were up to no good. Not once did we interrupt the lunch break of a law-abiding citizen. Actually, the schedules for most career criminals impacted our sleep patterns as they became active when the sun went down each day.

As a result, working a 24-hour shift was not unusual because we'd catch them in a felonious act and then petition courts for search warrants to follow-up on their crimes. The benefit was readily apparent to citizens, yet it also honed investigative skills that would have remained undeveloped or dormant without proactive policing.

APATHY NEVER WINS A BATTLE

- Regardless of the public clamor for a kinder, gentler police presence, cops are not firefighters.
- Proactive policing has the backing of research as to lowering violent crime.
- Allow a bully to go unchallenged and he becomes a tyrant.
- Nevertheless, I don't need a scientific study to tell me that an area saturated with cops will have a lower crime rate. I've seen it, participated in it, and ordered it. Moreover, professional hoodlums know the policing philosophy of the local agency. Therefore, they know what they can and cannot get away with based upon what is tolerated.
- The basic principle is this: allow a bully to go unchallenged and he becomes a tyrant.

COWED INTO A CORNER

Law enforcement is being cowed into a corner by street thugs and political hacks alike. Regardless of the foibles that have occurred in isolated incidents, law enforcement leaders need to remember they have the best interests of humanity on their side when they implement policies in good faith aimed at maintaining civil order.

Consequently, they need to boldly speak up! . . . A few are, and we are proud of them, but many are not. Whatever forces stand in their way should be dealt with legally, professionally, and swiftly. Otherwise, they'll be looking up at the axles of a truck as they get run over.

PUBLIC DEMAND

Law Enforcement Today contributor, Leonard Sipes, articulated the following details in his article, "What Happens When We Run out of Cops?"

People in high crime communities complain that police are overzealous regarding incessant stops. But proactive policing was debated and thoroughly examined by everyone including the media over the course of decades. It's not as if cops decided to do this on their own. Why would they? Every stop means greater danger and unwanted public entanglements. Why would anyone risk their lives or sanity needlessly?

Continued on next page...



Officers were ordered to do this by affected communities, mayors, city councils, and governors. It wasn't a secret. Vast crime reductions in New York City (referred to as the New York City miracle) and elsewhere were attributed to proactive law enforcement efforts. The media reported on the numbers of arrests and resulting jail overcrowding. Everyone knew what was going on and why.



SPIKE IN CHICAGO HOMICIDES

The 2016 Chicago homicide spike was blamed on police backing off, similar to causation factors leading to elevated homicide rates in Baltimore.

Paul Cassell chronicled his analysis of the problem:

As the Chicago Tribune reported this morning, University of Utah Economics Professor Richard Fowles and I have just completed an important article on the 2016 Chicago homicide spike. Through multiple regression analysis and other tools, we conclude that an ACLU consent decree triggered a sharp reduction in stop and frisks by the Chicago Police Department, which in turn caused homicides to spike. Sadly, what Chicago police officers dubbed the "ACLU effect" was real—and more homicides and shootings were the consequence.

ASSERTIVE POLICE WORK

While I maintain that proactive policing is best for a community and the law enforcement organization charged with maintaining order, it should never be confused with cops who act like jackasses.

All it takes is one bonehead to brand everyone wearing a badge with the "J.A." logo. Let's appropriately deal with officers wearing a dunce cap so the rest of us do not have to carry their baggage.

IS PROACTIVE POLICING DEAD?

Thank goodness it (proactive policing) is still alive and well in a few locations. Yet the numbers are rapidly dwindling. Sadly, it has been mortally wounded in far too many places that desperately need to regain control of their streets. I.e. Chicago and Baltimore among others.

I received the following message from an officer in a major city. It was included in correspondence drafted by his very own police association: There is very little room for mistakes. Proactive policing is not supported and if you find yourself in something other than a textbook scenario, then it can end your career. My advice is for you to answer your 911 calls and use proactive policing at your own risk.

Many readers recognize a facsimile of these words, because they have become a common admonition to modern day sheepdogs.

IF PROACTIVE POLICING IS DEAD . . .

- Fear is the prevailing emotion.
- When fear is present, hesitation is sure to follow.
- Hesitation leads to good people getting hurt . . . cops and citizens.
- The crime problems plaguing inner-city America will spread like wildfire.
- Public safety is compromised so everyone, particularly those less able, can live securely in their homes and neighborhoods.
- Law enforcement as an institution will become less competent. (If we ignore the small things we will be ill equipped to handle bigger problems.)

COPS ARE FED UP

Fear and frustration is sending cops to the exits. LET recently reported that NYPD police officers were leaving in record numbers. "That's going to be a brain drain on the department. The experience we have on the street is now leaving," said their PBA President, Pat Lynch.

"Departments are struggling to find not only interested, but interested and qualified, candidates to join the force," said Jim Burch, vice president of the Police Foundation. "With everything happening around policing from salary to criticism, the question many people are asking is 'is it worth it?'"

GETTING BURNED

Dustin Hammit resigned from the Austin Police Department a short time ago. He wrote a fantastic piece voicing his frustration with the system. In his work he talked about "getting burned."

But after a while, it does become just a job. After a while, the rookie stars fade from your eyes. You get burned by suspects. You get burned by the people you are trying to help. You get burned by the criminal justice system. You get burned by your department. You get burned by the politicians in the DA's office and on the City Council. Wanna know why cops are cynical? It is because they've been burned. A lot. By everyone.

SOLUTIONS

We need to make sure officers don't feel like they're "getting burned" for doing their job! I will be accused of over simplifying a multifaceted problem, but it's all about leadership! Cops in the trenches will not go out on a limb for leaders who fail to support their lawful actions. Chiefs, sheriffs and mayors need to understand the risk/reward in this requisite style of policing—if they want safer communities. If not, invest in the flower industry because Americans will visit more gravesites.

Will our nation regain the political fortitude to stand up to criminal bullies and their aggressive political advocates? I don't know. For now, the people demonstrating courage are being mislabeled as racists and bigots.



NONSENSE IN MINNESOTA AND CALIFORNIA

At a time when the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed the complexities, and in essence defended police officers involved in critical incidents, the naysayers are many.

Amazingly, authority figures in Minnesota and California have actually engaged in conversations about disarming police and/or raising the threshold when officers may engage in lethal force. So even though police officers generally arrest 10-11 million people annually, and do so overwhelmingly without harming suspects, when the perpetrator initiates violence and resistance, the blame for injuries and death is always placed at the doorstep of law enforcement.

Oh yes, the public mourns with us when an officer is killed in the line of duty, but many of the same "mourners" line up to excoriate the officer chasing a likely burglary suspect through dark areas and then opens fire when he mistakenly identifies a cell phone as a small caliber handgun. It's sad and tragic, but the officer's actions were precipitated by criminal conduct on the part of the decedent. Isn't accountability a two-way street? Why is this quickly cast aside during public debates? As a result, crooks gaining status as martyrs are trending up . . . and their families are being enriched due to lawsuits.

IRONIC TWIST

So, in a twist of irony, the arguments and demands of civil libertarians fearing that minorities are dying at the hands of law enforcement will lead to the unintended consequences like Chicago and Baltimore. Cops will back off and more people will die.

The current criminal and civil justice systems in place are fully capable of handling police misconduct and negligence. However, the dialogue missing from our "public conversation" is accountability on the part perpetrators and suspects whose actions are the ultimate cause of their demise. Consequently, proactive policing appears to be dead in America. Can someone please tell me I'm wrong?

Jim McNeff, Writer/Author, Partner and Managing Editor, Law Enforcement Today, Police Lieutenant (Ret.)

www.badge145.com | www.lawenforcementtoday.com

<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/death-proactive-policing-lead-americans-gravesites/>

Jim McNeff is a partner and managing editor of Law Enforcement Today where he has worked since 2016. Previous to this he served in law enforcement for 31 years. He retired as a police lieutenant after 28 years with the Fountain Valley Police Department in Orange County, California. Prior to that he served the 3902 Security Police Squadron in the United States Air Force, assigned to the 1st Air Command and Control Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Jim holds a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Southwest University and graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) course, Leadership in Police Organizations. He's authored two books, "The Spirit behind Badge 145" and "Justice Revealed." His third book, "Jurisdiction," is due to be released in early 2019. Jim has been married to his wife Jamie since 1983. They have three adult children and three grandchildren. You can contact him at editor@lawenforcementtoday.com and learn more about his ministry work at www.badge145.com. You can also follow him on Facebook at "Badge 145 - Trending Truth" or Twitter @jimmcneff.



This is a reminder that the Nebraska Sheriff's Association is now a part of the Western States Sheriff's Association. So far the WSSA has provided us with a lot of useful information.

WSSA is a very strong voice for Sheriffs at the national level and offer their assistance at the local level as well.

For more information visit <https://westernsheriffs.org>

NEBRASKA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME AWARD

Douglas County Sheriff, Tim Dunning, was elected in 1994 after defeating 16-year incumbent Richard Roth and is now the longest running Sheriff in Douglas County history having served 24 years as Douglas County Sheriff.

Sheriff Dunning began his career in 1971 as a Papillion Police Officer. He then served 22 years with the Omaha Police Department, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant in 1994. The majority of his career with OPD was spent in various aspects of Investigations and the Training Academy. Sheriff Dunning holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also a Graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI Leadership Institute (LEEDS).



Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Dunning has increased the level of professionalism within the DCSO. During his first term, Sheriff Dunning established the first Training Unit and implemented extensive in-service training for DCSO deputies. In 1995, Sheriff Dunning re-established the long dormant K-9 Unit which has since been responsible for remarkable statistics, receiving recognition from EPIC and the DEA for their impressive work combating illicit drug trafficking. Understanding the importance of education in law enforcement, Sheriff Dunning established increased educational requirements for promotional candidates to ensure a better educated command staff.

In 2004, Sheriff Dunning pressed for accreditation through the nationally recognized Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies also known as CALEA. Sheriff Dunning knows the importance of holding himself and his deputies accountable for professionalism day in and day out. After a lengthy and demanding process, the DCSO received its first Accreditation in 2006 and has been re-accredited four times since with exceptional ratings. With this accreditation, the DCSO became one of only three agencies in Nebraska and the only sheriff's office in the state with this distinction. Sheriff Dunning remains very active in CALEA at the national level currently serving as a CALEA Commissioner.



In 2007, Sheriff Dunning established the Emergency Service Unit which provided an enhanced ability to respond to hostage and barricaded situations as well as high risk warrants. Fully staffed, the unit employs approximately fifteen deputies that are trained and equipped to meet the demands of high profile incidents. As a career law enforcement officer with a training background, Sheriff Dunning understands the importance of officer safety. Sheriff Dunning has made sure that his deputies not only receive the best available training but are also the best equipped. From allowing deputies to wear more street functional uniforms to equipping them with improved less-than-lethal and firearm platforms, Sheriff Dunning has always been conscious of the needs of his personnel. Sheriff Dunning also played a pivotal role in assuring that Douglas County law enforcement agencies have the best possible communications system thereby improving the safety of law enforcement officers throughout Douglas County.

Sheriff Dunning increased staffing for the Douglas County Crime Lab and implemented higher education requirements for CSI personnel ensuring that the best possible people are collecting, processing and analyzing evidence. By ensuring the best educated and equipped Crime Lab personnel, the division has been instrumental in solving many high profile crimes. The lab now serves over a dozen metro Omaha agencies and many federal agencies as well. In 2010, under Sheriff Dunning's leadership, the Forensic Service Division's regional Crime Lab was established. This is a second-to-none facility where FSD personnel have access to state-of-the-art equipment ensuring the best possible laboratory environment. The facility and equipment were paid entirely from forfeited drug money and at no cost to the tax payers. At the same time a separate K-9 facility was established to support the important role of the K-9 Unit. This facility includes ample office space for K-9 deputies, indoor/outdoor kennels, a grooming area and a multi-use training room.

With Sheriff Dunning's full support and leadership, in 2016, the Forensic Service Division received Accreditation through ANAB, a nationally recognized Laboratory Accreditation Board that is comprised of nationally recognized professionals in the forensic science field. This accreditation is a rare, dual Accreditation for the Laboratory and the Crime Scene Investigation Unit which only five other agencies nation-wide currently hold. Like CALEA for law enforcement, ANAB holds their forensic scientists and Crime Scene Investigators to the highest standards in the field of forensic science.

With the rise of the scourge we know as human trafficking, Sheriff Dunning has taken a lead role in the state to combat this inhumane crime. He was appointed as a Member to the Governor's Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, an Advisory

Board Member to the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force and a Board Member with the Coalition on Human Trafficking. Through his support and leadership, there has been much progress in educating key members of the public to recognize and report suspected human trafficking activity. In 2017-18, a human trafficking investigative model that was developed by the DCSO with Sheriff Dunning's support has since been used by other agencies nation-wide to shut down a large scale human trafficking ring.

Sheriff Dunning has also supported many updates in procedures and infrastructure within the DCSO to improve and streamline processes, from warrants to most recently a paperless Record Management System (RMS). Sheriff Dunning has always sought ways to make improvements.

Sheriff Dunning has been a devoted husband to his wife Susan, father to four children and grandfather to seven grandchildren. He has been a positive role model and mentor for many in law enforcement and others outside the job. His life-long passion for not only those in law enforcement but innocent victims looking for a voice to defend them demonstrates his professionalism and passion for those in need. In addition to his many accomplishments, Sheriff Dunning has served in many law enforcement and victim advocate Boards and Associations to include:

- Past President Nebraska Sheriff's Association
- Past President Metro Chief's Association
- Past Chair Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Past Regional Chair for Explorer Scouts Programs with the Mid America Council
- Member National Sheriff's Association
- Member Major County Sheriff's Association
- Board Secretary – Major County Sheriff's Foundation
- Vice-Chair Douglas County Civil Service Commission
- Past Nebraska Supreme Court Nominating Committee Appointee
- Appointed Member – Governor's Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force
- Advisory Board Member – Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force
- Board Member – Coalition on Human Trafficking
- Bachelor's Degree CJ – UNO
- Master's Degree Public Administration – UNO
- 1986 Spirit of Cooperation Award – United States Dept. of Justice
- 1996 Law Enforcement Award – Knights of AKSARBEN
- 2005 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols

None of the many improvements and accomplishments at the DCSO would have been possible without the support and leadership of Sheriff Dunning; he is truly on the cutting edge of law enforcement. I am proud and honored to nominate Sheriff Timothy F. Dunning for induction into the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association – Hall of Fame.

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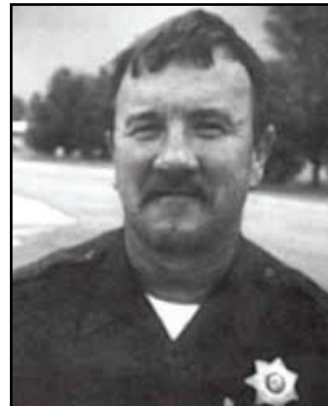
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See pages 49-56 for county businesses that are supporters of their local sheriff's office and the NSA!

RAPID DNA

The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory strives to provide quality and timely forensic science services to the State of Nebraska. In order to fulfill the Laboratory's mission, the Biology Unit evaluates and implements new DNA technology and testing procedures that will produce the high quality results that our customers expect and are necessary for court, as well as decrease the testing time to provide law enforcement agencies with results in a timelier manner.

One such technological advancement that is currently being marketed to law enforcement and crime laboratories is Rapid DNA. There is a lot of misinformation surrounding Rapid DNA that the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory would like to clarify for our law enforcement customers. Below are some frequently asked questions and information to assist the law enforcement community in the State of Nebraska to prepare our agencies for the possibility of Rapid DNA implementation.

WHAT IS THE COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM?

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is the FBI software that allows DNA profiles obtained from offenders, crime scene evidence, missing persons, unidentified human remains, and relatives of missing persons to be searched against each other. DNA profiles can be linked together during these routine searches, which provide law enforcement agencies with investigative leads.

WHAT IS RAPID DNA?

Rapid DNA, or Rapid DNA Analysis, describes the fully automated (hands free) process of developing a CODIS DNA profile from a known reference sample buccal swab. The "Swab in—Profile out" process consists of automated extraction, amplification, separation, detection, and allele calling without human intervention.

Modified Rapid DNA Analysis describes the automated (hands free) process of developing a CODIS DNA profile from a known reference sample. This process consists of integrated extraction, amplification, separation, and detection without human intervention, but requires human interpretation and technical review.

WHAT IS THE FBI RAPID DNA PROGRAM?

The FBI Rapid DNA Program was established in 2010 to allow federal and state agencies to prepare for the implementation of Rapid DNA. The goal of the FBI's Rapid DNA initiative is to link commercial instruments capable of producing a CODIS-compatible DNA profile within 2 hours and to integrate those instruments effectively within the existing CODIS structure to search unsolved crimes while an arrestee is in police custody during the booking process. The FBI is anticipating that formal testing of all components of the Rapid DNA System will begin this year.

WHAT IS THE RAPID DNA ACT?

As of August 18, 2017, H.R. 510 became Public Law No: 115-50. This Act allows DNA samples prepared by criminal justice agencies using Rapid DNA instruments in compliance with the FBI-issued standards and procedures to be included in CODIS.

FACT VS. FICTION

Rapid DNA vendors claim:

- Their Rapid DNA instruments have been approved by the FBI for DNA entry into CODIS.
- Their Rapid DNA instruments can analyze DNA from cheek swabs, bloodstains, cigarette butts, gum, bones, hair, semen, and many more sample types.
- Local DNA databases can be used in conjunction with Rapid DNA instruments to allow agencies to create and manage their own DNA databases.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- As of November 1, 2018, one Rapid DNA System, the ANDE, has been approved for use by an accredited forensic laboratory for performing Rapid DNA Analysis. It is important to note that NO Rapid DNA System has been approved for use in a law enforcement booking station or agency.
- At this time, the FBI is not including crime scene evidence as samples that can be ran with Rapid DNA Systems. Any crime scene evidence ran with Rapid DNA Systems prior to approval by

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the FBI will NOT be eligible for entry into CODIS.

- By using local DNA databases, law enforcement agencies are diminishing the effectiveness of the CODIS database. DNA profiles obtained using Rapid DNA prior to FBI approval will NEVER be allowed in CODIS; therefore, these law enforcement agencies will not benefit from the ability to search DNA profiles outside of their jurisdiction/state. They will also be taking away the ability of other law enforcement agencies to potentially solve cases because the profiles will not be linked through CODIS.

STEPS NEBRASKA NEEDS TO TAKE TO USE RAPID DNA:

In order to implement the use of Rapid DNA, the following steps must be taken to be compliant with the FBI requirements:

- Arrestee Legislation must be passed and there cannot be any indictment, or delay in DNA processing, requirements.
- AFIS Livescans must be present at all booking stations who will want to use Rapid DNA Systems.
- Updates to the CJIS Network and connectivity in Nebraska must be completed.
- Policies and procedures must be developed to establish roles and responsibilities for those agencies using Rapid DNA.
- Training must be provided to ensure that Rapid DNA Systems are being used by qualified individuals.
- The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory must ensure that the state's CODIS software is properly configured.

IF WE CAN'T USE RAPID DNA, HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MY AGENCY?

Although Nebraska is not currently ready to use a Rapid DNA System in the booking stations, law enforcement agencies can still benefit from the Rapid DNA Program once its testing is completed by the FBI. Crime scene DNA profiles that were developed by the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory using current methods and standards will be able to be searched against other state's arrestee DNA profiles as they are processed with the Rapid DNA System and entered into CODIS. These searches will take place during the booking process of the arrestee in the other state. Any matches that may result will trigger an immediate notification for the proper Nebraska law enforcement agency and the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory while the offender is still in custody.

The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory is currently evaluating all DNA profiles submitted to CODIS and identifying those that will meet the FBI requirements for Rapid DNA searching. Once all eligible profiles have been identified, the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory will be reaching out to the appropriate law enforcement agencies to determine whether or not to enable the Rapid DNA searching for specific profiles.

KATIE RECTOR, OUR CODIS STATE ADMINISTRATOR

For More Information please contact the Nebraska State CODIS Administrator, Katherine Rector, at katherine.rector@nebraska.gov, or 402-471-8950. The following websites also have valuable information pertaining to Rapid DNA. <https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory/biometric-analysis/codis/rapid-dna> | https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4344b0_

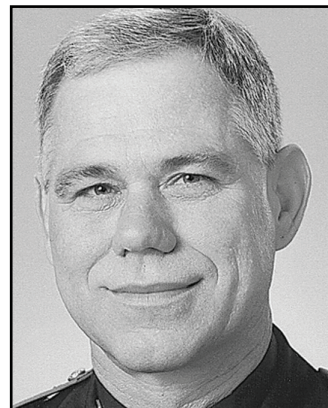
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NEBRASKA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION DEPUTY OF THE YEAR AWARD

If you ask members of your community what qualities are needed to be a deputy sheriff many will say self-sacrificing, hardworking or dedicated. In my opinion, no person embodies these qualities better than Deputy Jake Bauer of the Merrick County Sheriff's Office. You will be hard pressed to find a person who not only works for his community during his shift but also after his tour of duty is over and asks for nothing in return. I served as Deputy Bauer's shift partner for a majority of 2017 and witnessed firsthand the type of person Deputy Bauer is and what an asset he is to our community. Here are just a few examples of what makes Deputy Bauer the perfect recipient for Nebraska Sheriff's Association Deputy of the Year.



In July of 2017, Deputy Bauer and I were dispatched to a fatality accident on U.S. Highway 30 just west of Chapman, NE. Two vehicles were involved in the accident, one of which was a van driven by Robert Campos with his wife Jeanne in the passenger seat. Robert and Jeanne were traveling through the county heading back home to Colorado Springs, CO when the accident occurred. Robert tragically lost his life prior to our arrival. Jeanne was transported to a local area hospital after being extricated from the vehicle. Deputy Bauer assisted with investigating the accident but, what he did afterward truly shows the type of person he is. After assisting deputies on scene, Deputy Bauer went to the hospital where Jeanne was located.

In speaking with Jeanne, Deputy Bauer found out Jeanne's closest relatives were in Colorado Springs and would not be at the hospital for hours. Deputy Bauer decided to stay at the hospital with Jeanne for eight hours until her family members arrived from Colorado. It should be noted, this was done without instruction from anyone and was time outside of Deputy Bauer's normal shift. When asked about Deputy Bauer's actions, Jeanne had the following to say, "He was my angel at the worst time of my life! I can still hear him saying I'm not going to leave you. Don't worry, I'm here! I believe God puts special people in your life to comfort you and ease your pain and I was blessed with Jake." Deputy Bauer and Jeanne still keep in contact and recently placed a roadside memorial at the site of the accident to commemorate Robert.

In October of 2017, Deputy Bauer responded to three separate medical calls involving unresponsive persons. The first, a male in a local fast food restaurant had become unresponsive. Deputy Bauer arrived on scene and began CPR along with customers at the restaurant. Deputy Bauer continued CPR in the ambulance until reaching the hospital, saving the man's life. The second, involved a male and female found unresponsive at their residence. Deputy Bauer again arrived on scene beginning rescue breathing until EMS arrived to take over. Again, in this case, saving the woman's life. Lastly, Deputy Bauer and a Central City Police Officer were detailed to a residence in Central City where a man was found unresponsive. Deputy Bauer and the officer began CPR to resuscitate the male until EMS arrived. Unfortunately, this male would not be able to be revived.

Some of Deputy Bauer's other actions at work include the successful prosecution of an animal neglect case in which two people were convicted of animal neglect and twenty-one animals were rescued. What is notable with this case is that Deputy Bauer and his wife bought the children of these two individuals candy, treat baskets, and toys on Halloween when both parents were incarcerated. Deputy Bauer, served as lead investigator into patient abuse/neglect at a mental health facility in which his investigative efforts led to the mental health facility being shut down for licensing violations. An investigation, arrest and conviction of a secretary at a local business for embezzlement of over \$90,000 from company bank accounts. Convictions on multiple cases of sex offender registry violations in the county. A traffic stop resulting in the seizure of 169.4 grams of psilocybin (Sil-O-Si-Bin) mushrooms, fifty THC concentrate products, and one ounce of marijuana. Lastly, the arrest of an absconded murder suspect from Colorado who had been on the run for months.

Outside of work, Deputy Bauer devotes most of his time to several community organizations. Deputy Bauer serves on the advisory board of the Merrick County Youth Council where he was instrumental in the development and operation of an after-school program for the youth in our county. He also helps facilitate concession stand operations at Legion Baseball games for this organization.

When I asked the organization for a total number of hours that Deputy Bauer volunteers they could not provide an accurate number but estimated it to be in the thousands. Deputy Bauer also serves as a mentor and board member for Teammates Mentoring Program. Along with these volunteer activities, Deputy Bauer has served as a coach for youth baseball, assists with the Merrick County Sheriff's Office Santa Cop program, built a "In GOD WE TRUST" sign for the courthouse, and is frequently seen eating lunch with school students at our county schools.

Deputy Bauer continually puts others needs in front of his own and is truly the best example of what a deputy sheriff should be. He is the person you want as your neighbor, on your shift, or showing up when you call 911. Please help me in congratulating, Deputy Jake Bauer, the 2018 recipient of Nebraska Sheriff's Association Deputy of the Year Award.

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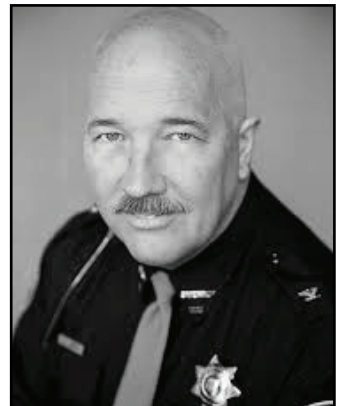


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DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE IN NEBRASKA

Emily Schoenleber, Nebraska State Patrol Domestic & Sexual Violence Program Manager & Coordinator of the Nebraska Statewide Coordinated Response Team

Reports of violent crime in Nebraska increased 8.6% in 2017. Intimate partner violence, or domestic violence (DV), accounted for 16% of the 3,625 aggravated assaults in our communities. There were 1,053 rapes reported to criminal justice authorities in our state. (Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 2017) Nebraska law enforcement, like the rest of the country, continues to work tirelessly to identify when an intimate relationship crosses the line from unhealthy to abusive and violent.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE #METOO ERA

There has been a steady increase in rape reporting in Nebraska over the last several years. While factors such as the change in the FBI's definition of rape in 2013 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2013) do affect the numbers, the numbers continue to rise in the years since the change was implemented. Social scientists and victim advocates have told us for years that sexual violence is underreported to criminal justice authorities.

In October 2017, #MeToo began trending on social media. Millions shared their stories of sexual harassment and sexual assault. Many of these victims for the first time. Many others supported without sharing – not yet ready to embrace what it meant to talk about their experience. Statistically, women are more commonly victims of sexual violence (1 in 3), but #MeToo also embraced the 1 in 6 men who have experienced sexual violence. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010-2012) However, a tweet, a post, or a snap, is not the same as a law enforcement report. The full scope of the impact of #MeToo on law enforcement operations has yet to be seen in a measurable way. The criminal justice community has been preparing for #MeToo for years. We have been educating ourselves on the impact of trauma on the brain's ability to recall memory, understanding the norms of delayed reporting, improving interview approaches for victims, building relationships with nurses trained in sexual assault forensic exams and victim advocates who provide resources and support to victims, and refining the principles that guide our procedures, policies, and protocols that hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police tells us a "victim-centered approach recognizes the tremendous courage of victims who come forward and the personal cost to those who participate in the criminal justice system." (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2015) A recognition of the barriers to disclosing sexual assault to criminal justice authorities leads to the implementation of protocols allowing for anonymous collection of evidence for victims of sexual assault in 2018.

LETHALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The lethality of domestic violence for victims, children, and officers has been studied at length over the past several decades. While clearly not all abusive intimate relationships pose a threat to life, there are a number of hallmarks of elevated risk.

According to one study, women who were threatened or assaulted with a gun or other weapon were 20 times more likely to be murdered than other women. When a gun was in the house, an abused woman was 6 times more likely to be killed than other abused women. (Campbell, et al., 2003) A five-year study of line-of-duty deaths found "calls involving a domestic disturbance or domestic-related assault were not only the most dangerous type of call for service, but they were also the underlying cause in other fatal calls for service analyzed in this report." (Breul & Keith, 2016) A separate five-year study found that in 57% of mass shootings, the shooter killed an intimate partner/family member. The mass shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas in November of 2017 brought the threat of an unchecked domestic violence perpetrator to the forefront. About 7% of the town's population was shot during the massacre that killed 26 and injured 20 when a known DV abuser turned his weapons on the church attended by his in-laws. Fortunately, Nebraska has not experienced a tragedy of this scale. Though, from 2013-2017, at least 63 deaths in our state (both homicides and suicides) have been connected to domestic violence.

Nationally, the implementation of state and local domestic violence fatality review (DVFR) teams have created a process to learn from these horrific events in order to implement changes aimed at preventing future loss of life. DVFR teams, like child death review teams, look at the circumstances leading up to a death in great depth and detail. By conducting a critical analysis of intervention systems, we find opportunities to expand our tools for interceding and protecting life. The DVFR process is not yet fully established in Nebraska, but partnerships between the Nebraska Sheriffs Association, Nebraska State Patrol, and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are moving the state towards a solution.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAMS

A community-based coordinated response team (CRT) is a collaborative team working to enhance community and victim safety, as well as perpetrator accountability through analysis of criminal and social justice systems. By careful and thoughtful review of policies, practices, and data gained from individual agencies, a community can paint a picture of how effective their overall system is at achieving their desired outcomes. If a community is a swimming pool, the CRT is the maintenance worker checking the chlorine levels.

A CRT work is NOT a case coordination or high-risk response team. CRT members are often bound by confidentiality and therefore barred from discussing individual case specifics. A CRT meeting is not the appropriate venue for these discussions. It is essential to understand this key difference, as many Nebraska communities involve the same professionals in CRT work as they do in child abuse coordination teams (known as LB1184 teams). A CRT should be strategically designed to acknowledge other efforts for other issues, such as child abuse and elder abuse, while keeping the focus of the CRT on domestic and/or sexual violence. CRTs are developed as a check and balance of our work; ensuring that all groups move together toward a common goal, working in our respective lanes – not in silos.

LANES VS. SILOS

Nebraska's statewide approach to inter agency coordination is unique. In addition to many dedicated individuals working at the local/county/regional level to assess and improve the community's response to domestic and sexual violence, Nebraska utilizes a statewide coordinated response team, the State CRT, to look at systems and challenges that are outside the scope of local/county/regional representatives. State-level representatives from the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Attorney General's Office, Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime, and Nebraska Crime Commission have been working to implement state-level analysis and coordination of efforts to enhance the resources and response across the state. The State CRT is pleased to announce that the Nebraska Sheriff's Association is now represented in our group with the addition of Sheriff Dan Osmond. Sheriff Osmond brings a unique perspective to the State CRT table as a sheriff in a rural county and as the administrator of a county jail. As your colleague and peer, Sheriff Osmond will ensure that the voices of sheriffs across the state are represented in domestic and sexual violence policy work, training initiatives, and coordination efforts. Welcome Sheriff Osmond, and thank you to the Nebraska Sheriff's Association for your time, attention and support of the important work of enhancing Nebraska response to domestic and sexual violence in our communities.

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GO GET THE BAD GUYS! THE EVOLVING TRAINING STANDARDS FOR NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (LEOS)

By Laura L. Cooper

More than just a job, law enforcement is a way of life. It becomes part of a person's identity and affects how one views the world and interacts with others. Over the years, the career has become more regulated, more demanding, and more professional. Not so long ago, newly hired police officers and deputies were handed a badge, a gun, a set of keys and sent to patrol their jurisdictions with one order: "Go get the bad guys." Since there was no statewide requirement for the training of LEOs before 1970, few officers received any formal training. That has since changed.

STATEWIDE STANDARDS

Training standards were first mandated for law enforcement officers in Nebraska when the Unicameral passed LB 1346 in 1969. The legislature also set aside funds for a training center. According to the November 24, 1970, Beatrice Daily Sun, "A.B. Lightfoot, director of the new training center ... announced a basic curriculum of 200 hours." There were 29 students in the inaugural class. That included seven sheriffs-elect, five chiefs of police or marshals, two deputy sheriffs, and one brand commission investigator. In 1972, the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) opened in Grand Island, and all law enforcement officers in the state were required to complete basic training there or at the State Patrol, Omaha Police, or Lincoln Police training academies. Training for LEOs in the state has been evolving ever since.

PURPOSE OF THE NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Created by statute, the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center is supervised by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice through its Police Standards Advisory Council. NLETC must fulfill these mandates:

- Test all law enforcement candidates on behalf of the Police Standards Advisory Council to ensure they meet pre-certification and certification requirements.
- Oversee and monitor other training schools and training academies to ensure they meet pre-certification and certification requirements.
- Conduct certification programs and advanced law enforcement training as directed by the Council.

Society's ever-changing expectations of law enforcement changes training its officers into a complex responsibility.

NLETC BASIC TRAINING IN 1972

The 10th Basic Training class at NLETC was held July 10 – August 18, 1972. According to the "1972-73 Fiscal Year Report," there were 28 students who each received a total of 204 hours of training. That was delivered at a cost of \$1.15 per man-hour.

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The report opens with a letter by Donald G. Webb, the center's director at the time. "I am proud to be a part of the law enforcement training effort in Nebraska," he wrote. "I feel that Nebraska can be proud of the fine men and women who have selected law enforcement as a career."

That year, NLETC published the Manual on Field Training which was distributed on a pilot basis. It outlined a 12-week on-the-job training program for new hires. The fiscal year report described the new program: "As part of the recruit training process, a trainee will be assigned to a field training officer or coach who is a law enforcement officer especially prepared by experience and/or training for this purpose."

TRAINING FACILITIES IMPROVE

The buildings and equipment improved greatly over the years, but the initial training facility accommodations were sparse. Early training classes were conducted in a structure that had been built by the Air Force. It included sleeping rooms, offices, a kitchen and dining facility. However, the dining area was used as a classroom, and the students were transported to the airport restaurant for meals. Before long, an addition with more classrooms, a recreation area, and an indoor firearms range provided much-needed space. Dining facilities were also incorporated into the center. In 2005, the Grand Island facilities underwent a major renovation and expansion. The State Patrol Training Academy relocated to the NLETC campus. The upgrade included a gymnasium, weight room, firearms simulator, vehicle inspection building, and a dog kennel. It also added more classrooms, dorm rooms, and offices. Other improvements were made to the dining room, kitchen, firearms range, driving track, and student lounge.

NLETC TRAINING TODAY

The 199th Basic Training class at NLETC graduated 45 recruits from 21 agencies on August 24, 2018. Each recruit received more than 635 hours of training over 15 weeks. That is over three times the amount of training provided to the 10th Basic Training class. Currently, about 25% of basic training students at NLETC arrive with prior military experience, which is a great fit for the requirements of the profession. Despite statewide recruiting goals, only 10% of recruits are female, and few are ethnic minorities. In April 2018, Brenda Urbanek was named director after teaching thousands of officers over 28 years at the center. In a release announcing Urbanek's promotion, Nebraska Crime Commission Executive Director Darrell Fisher spoke of her leadership as deputy director and interim director. "This guidance, leadership, and direction has led to successful changes and implementations in Nebraska's training curriculum," Fisher said.

When introduced as the first female director of NLETC, Urbanek said, "I appreciate the opportunity to work with all law enforcement agencies in the state to continue to enhance the level of professionalism as we all strive to serve and protect the people in Nebraska." Urbanek has had a direct hand in designing the current curriculum which is drawn from the results of a job task analysis conducted in 2011. It is designed to prepare graduates to undertake entry-level law enforcement duties with the understanding that additional guidance and/or field training is the responsibility of each agency.

ESSENTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS

The most recent Nebraska law enforcement job task analysis identified the many tasks that recruits must be trained to complete. Those duties fall under the following 17 categories:

- Performs patrol/basic law enforcement functions.
- Exercises ethics in law enforcement.
- Conducts criminal investigations.
- Prepares and serves legal notices and warrants. Conducts arrests, searches, and seizures.
- Provides traffic/motor vehicle enforcement and investigates collisions.
- Renders first aid and emergency assistance.
- Demonstrates firearms proficiency. Employs the use of deadly force when needed.
- Practices positive human relations.
- Operates emergency vehicle.
- Protects homeland security.
- Writes field notes and reports. Completes forms.
- Prevents/responds to civil disorder.
- Uses specialized equipment and supplies.
- Accesses and uses legal and technical information.
- Exercises physical tactics/use of force effectively in appropriate situations.
- Possesses physical abilities for mobility, stress tolerance, awareness, stamina, and strength.
- Demonstrates the ability to cope with physical exertion.

Continued on next page...

The lists of tasks that fall under these functions are longer and more diverse than the training topics presented to recruits in the 1970s.

Some of the newest basic training topics include patrol rifle, building clearing, and active shooter protocols. Current basic classes are also exposed to "Stress Inoculation Day" in which recruits are put through a series of high-stress, physically and mentally challenging activities to ensure they are up to the job.

Continued on next page....

Director Urbanek told NET's Bill Kelly, "If we can inoculate you to that [physical and mental stress] here, when it happens to you in real life it's not nearly as bad."

Recruits are also quickly exposed to live fire drills. Urbanek said, "It's about what do they bring to this? [Do] they curl up by the car and start crying for their mommy, or do they engage and try to continue on?" She said, "If they don't have the heart, I don't care how much training we give them, it's not going to be there when they need it out on the street."

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Further training was mandated by state law in 2012. Each sheriff must successfully complete the Sheriff's Certification Course unless he or she already possesses a certificate from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, or he/she can demonstrate they are otherwise qualified to the Police Standards Advisory Council. Beyond initial training, the Council requires that law enforcement officers, including sheriffs, must attend 20 hours each year of continuing education in criminal justice and law enforcement courses to maintain their professional status. This is in addition to the State Handgun Qualification Course. Only 10 of those 20 hours can be obtained over the Internet.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Local LEOs are affected by what plays out on the national stage, but they must always fulfill the goals of their agency. Each year we ask how much money, how many instructors, and how many hours the state and county departments are willing to invest in law enforcement training. Which topics will then make it into the curriculum? In 2015, Urbanek, Deputy Director responsible for the Center's curriculum at the time, received supervisor of the year honors. She told The Grand Island Independent that the focus used to be on training officers to be 'warriors.'

"Officers today are trained as 'guardians,' who must have a switch to go to 'warrior' mode whenever the need may arise." NLETC Instructor Mike Kirby made a similar point to NET. "They seem to be expected to be more sympathetic and empathetic. They are fitting a whole different role than I remember as a law enforcement officer." How will we find people to fill these sometimes-contradictory roles? National controversies, rising standards, and conflicting demands placed on law enforcement officers by society may explain why it is so difficult to attract recruits to the field today. Statewide, it is especially challenging to recruit female and minority candidates.

CONCLUSIONS

In a recent discussion on the status of law enforcement with NET, Urbanek said, "Over the last 35 years, it has truly worked to become a profession. You know, there's standards and then there's policing of those standards, and we have worked towards that."

That professionalization is largely based upon promoting ethics, requiring accountability, and improving the basic training and continuing education of law enforcement officers in Nebraska. NLETC graduated its 200th Basic Training class in December 2018. There is little doubt that these law enforcement officers have had to adapt to changing demands throughout the beginning of their careers. Likewise, the basic training and continuing education of LEOs will have to continually adjust to best prepare officers to empathize with citizens while standing ready to fight for us all.

Laura L. Cooper, a former police officer and a graduate of NLETC's 100th Basic Training Class, feels old writing about the 200th Basic. She is a frequent contributor to "The Nebraska Sheriff" magazine and can be contacted at www.lauralcooper.com.



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This last legislative session of the Nebraska Unicameral saw the passage of LB 791. It was signed by Governor Ricketts on April 23, 2018 with an emergency clause. The "e clause" as it is referred by means that it went into effect immediately. The bill has been referred to as "Truth in termination". LB 791 was codified into Nebraska Revised Statute 81-1456 and 81-1457.

Please note that 791 is NOT retroactive. 791 applies only to employment changes which have taken place since April 23, 2018. It is only applicable to Nebraska certified officers.

The intent of this legislation is to create a more transparent reporting process in an attempt to limit rogue officers' ability to bounce from one law enforcement agency to another.

The passage of this bill, created several changes for law enforcement agencies in how and what must reported in terms of their deputies/officers. In addition, it changed how law enforcement agencies hire Nebraska certified officers.

According to statute, a Change in Status form SHALL be submitted to the Training Center within seven (7) days of the action. The change may be due to hiring of a new employee; the employee has a name or a name change; or the individual has left employment as a sworn officer. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements constitutes Neglect of Duty.

On the Change in Status form when an agency hires a new employee the agency head must check one of two boxes in the New Employee section; "Has NE Certification or Does Not have NE certification". Under each of these there are additional boxes which must also be completed.

Under the "Does Not have NE certification" box is a list of the date of appointment. This is when a new employee receives their appointment as a law enforcement officer. Once they have this appointment they can perform duties of a law enforcement officer. Be aware that if they have received appointment as a law enforcement officer, their one year "clock" is running.

The other box in this category is if an agency hires the individual as a Trainee. A Trainee cannot perform any law enforcement duties. They are a civilian employee. As such the year "clock" is not running. The other category of the New Employee section is "Has NE Certification". The employing agency must indicate whether the Nebraska certification is basic certification or as a reserve.

Additional forms must be submitted for the certified new employee. These include the Background Verification form, a Code of Ethics or if the new employee has previously signed a Code of Ethics, an Attestation form. The Attestation form simply allows the new employee to verify that she/he has previously signed a Code of Ethics.

The section "Separation of Employment" on the Change in Status form was greatly impacted by LB 791. Prior to 791's passage, agencies would simply report that the individual no longer worked for that agency. It might be reported that the employee was dismissed or resigned but the real reason for ending employment was not required to be reported.

The biggest change in this section deals with the following: "Retirement due to incapacity (81-1403); retirement in-lieu of termination; Resignation: in-lieu of termination and Dismissal: based on grounds for revocation; unable to meet agency standards; or internal discipline".

If Retirement in lieu of termination, resignation in lieu of termination or dismissal based on grounds for revocation are checked as the reasons for the separation of employment an additional report must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Crime Commission. This report includes a summary of the facts surrounding the termination of employment and a list of witnesses to the situation. An agency has thirty (30) days to submit that report to the Crime Commission.

Another impact of 791 is the requirement for an agency to maintain employment records of law enforcement officers. Employment records must be kept for 5 years on former employees and for 10 years on former employees who had conduct which could constitute revocation.

Failure to comply with the all above constitutes Neglect of Duty, which itself is one of the grounds for revocation of a law enforcement license.

The second part of 791 deals with the hiring of officers. This includes the applicant completing the "Authority to Release Information to Prospective Employer" once they have received a conditional offer of employment.

When a Nebraska certified officer applies for a law enforcement position with a different law enforcement agency, the agency administrator should first contact the NLETC to ascertain if a "791" report has been filed against the applicant.

If a 791 report has been filed, that officer CANNOT be hired as a law enforcement officer until the report has been reviewed and a determination has been made on the merits of the report. This is referred to as a "791 lock" on the officer's status.

When an agency has determined that no 791 report has been filed and the applicant has met all of the agency's hiring standards, a conditional offer of employment can be extended to the applicant.

Once the conditional offer of employment has been extended, the applicant is statutorily required to provide the prospective employer with a signed, "Authority to Release Information to Prospective Employer" form which is available on the NLETC website under the "Forms" tab. If the applicant does not provide the prospective employer with this form, they CANNOT be hired as a law enforcement officer with that agency.

Once the prospective employer has received this form from the applicant, that agency shall send it to ALL of the applicant's previous law enforcement employers.

Within ten (10) days of receiving the release, the previous employing agencies shall provide the prospective employing agency with records regarding the applicant. With this statutory change, the previous agencies must now provide information regarding the applicant and his/her employment records that exceeds the dates that the individual was employed.

Once the prospective employer has reviewed records from all previous law enforcement employers and determined that the applicant has passed a thorough background investigation as outlined in Title 79, Chapter 8, the certified officer may then be hired.

As with any new legislation, there is an anticipated period of transition. Labor contracts were negotiated prior to the passage of this law. Agencies may not have records from 10 years ago. Even so, that agency is required to report to the prospective employing agency that they do not have the records requested. If no records retention system exists in your agency, one should be implemented to ensure compliance with the new requirements of 791.

If you have questions surrounding "791" do not hesitate to contact Director Brenda Urbanek, Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.



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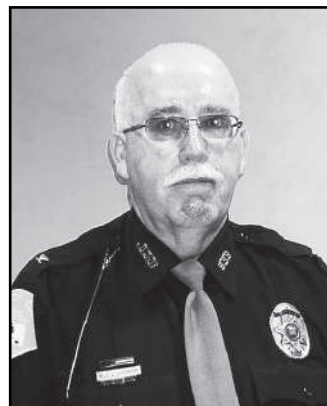
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2018 NEBRASKA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AND POLICE OF



OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA JOINT CONFERENCE



JULY TRI-STATE TRAINING

In November of 2000, the State of Colorado legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes with written medical consent. In January 2014, Colorado legalized the recreational use of marijuana. Since Colorado's marijuana legalization, Colorado prosecutors and law enforcement officers have faced many new challenges related to investigation and prosecution of traffic crimes involving marijuana-impaired drivers. These challenges range from determining how to prove marijuana impairment via the chemical test; how to effectively select juries; and in some cases, how to overcome potential jury nullification at the close of trial.

Colorado's marijuana legalization has also affected law enforcement efforts in neighboring states in a variety of ways. Colorado has become a destination for marijuana tourism and offers a wide variety of marijuana products available for purchase. This has resulted in an increase in traffic stops involving suspected marijuana-impaired drivers, many of whom have Colorado-purchased marijuana products in their vehicles.

According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office, chemical testing from Nebraska drivers involved in the 622 fatal crashes for the period 2015 through 2017, indicates that drugs were identified in 134 (21.5%) of those crashes. Of those 134 fatal crashes, 49 (36.6%) involved a driver identified as having THC or cannabinoids in his or her system. A total of 149 persons were killed in these 134 drug-related fatal crashes. The identification of marijuana-related drugs makes up the single largest representation of drugs in these drivers' systems at the time of the crash. It is likely that even more evidence of marijuana would have been detected in other fatal crashes had more testing taken place.

On July 17, 2018, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, through its Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor program, presented a day-long training entitled, "Tri-State Training on Emerging Issues in DUI-D." The goal of the training was twofold: 1) to present information key to enhancing the ability of prosecutors and law enforcement to effectively investigate and prosecute marijuana DUI-D cases in the three border area of Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado; and 2) to enable in-person exchange of knowledge and ideas among officers and prosecutors from the three border area.

The training featured a number of experienced traffic crime prosecutors from Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, as well as a Nebraska Crime Lab toxicologist and a Nebraska Panhandle area Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Thirty-six individuals attended the training which was held at the Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Attendees at the training included prosecutors and law enforcement officers from Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado. Seventeen different law enforcement agencies were represented including three statewide agencies: 1) the Nebraska State Patrol, 2) the Colorado State Patrol and 3) the Wyoming Highway Patrol. Rounding out the agencies represented was the University of Wyoming police department. Last but not least, the NHTSA Region 8 Administrator and the NHTSA Region 8 Program Manager also attended the training.

Faculty for the training included: the Nebraska Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor; Jennifer R. Knudsen, Colorado Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor and Ashley Schluck, Wyoming Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor. The faculty also included Jessica M. Laughlin, Deputy Scotts Bluff County Attorney; Patrick M. Lee, Deputy Buffalo County Attorney; Sgt. Mark Bliss, Drug Recognition Expert with the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office; Abbegayle Dodds, Forensic Laboratory Supervisor for the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory and myself, Edward Vierk.

Topics at the training included: 1) prosecutor perspectives and current DUI-D issues of a Panhandle jurisdiction; 2) DRE discussion of cannabinoid pharmacology, marijuana types, marijuana intoxication signs, and the DRE and ARIDE program details; 3) State Crime Lab urine analysis of DUI-D marijuana suspects; 4) DUI-D marijuana trial tips and proving a marijuana DUI-D without a DRE; and 5) a Title 177 CH.7 change status update. The day's training closed out with a Q&A panel discussion.

The training was highly successful, and I have received excellent feedback from attendees in the days and weeks following it. Therefore, more trainings on this topic area are in the works. If your agency is interested in having this training in your area or a training on any other topic related to investigation/prosecution highway safety-crimes, please contact me.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the talented faculty who volunteered their time and knowledge to this training. Also, many thanks to Western Nebraska Community College for providing a terrific venue for this and past trainings for the TSRP program. Finally, thank you to all of the attendees, many of whom traveled to our state for the training, despite their heavy commitment of duties in their home jurisdictions. Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

Edward Vierk, Assistant Attorney General, Nebraska Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor
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2019 NSA/POAN CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

- 12:00-6:00 PM Open Registration
- 1:00-2:00 PM Nebraska Crime Commission Update
- 2:00-5:00 PM Speaker - TBA
- 5:00-7:00 PM NSA Annual Meeting
- 5:00-7:00 PM POAN Board Meeting
- 7:00-11:00 PM Hospitality Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019

- 7:00-8:30 AM Open Registration
- 8:30-9:00 AM Opening Session Attorney General
National Anthem
Color Guard - Washington County
- 9:00-10:00 AM Speaker - TBA
- 9:00-1:00 PM Spouses Program
Corky Creations & Lunch
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break In Vendor Area
- 10:30-12:00 PM National Missing & Unidentified
Persons System - Melissa Gregory
- 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch Provided in Vendor Area
Highway Safety Luncheon *(invite only)*
- 1:05 PM Afternoon Drawing in Classroom
- 1:15-2:30 PM The Kelsey Smith Case - Greg Smith
- 2:30-3:00 PM Break in Vendor Area
- 3:00-4:45 PM The Kelsey Smith Case - Greg Smith
- 5:30-7:30 PM President's Reception
- 7:30-11:00 PM Hospitality Room -
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

- 8:00-10:00 AM The Bullet Proof Mind - Col. Grossman
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break in the Vendor Area
- 10:30-12:00 AM The Bullet Proof Mind - Col. Grossman
- 12:00-12:45 PM Lunch On Your Own
POAN Annual Luncheon *(POAN Members Only)*
- 1:00-2:30 PM The Bullet Proof Mind - Col. Grossman
- 2:30-3:00 PM Break in Vendor Area
- 3:00-5:00 PM The Bullet Proof Mind - Col. Grossman
- 6:00-9:00 PM NSA & POAN Awards Banquet
- 6:00-6:30 PM Cocktails
- 6:30-9:00 PM Conference Banquet and Awards
Entertainment: Joe Cole
- 9:00-11:00 PM Hospitality Room -
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

- 8:00-10:00 PM Why Teens Kill - Chalmers
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break in the Vendor Area
- 10:30-12:00 PM Why Teens Kill - Chalmers
- 12:00-12:15 PM Closing Comments
- 12:15-1:15 PM POAN Board Meeting

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MURDER OF NIGHTWATCHMAN CHARLES A. RALSTON

From the Cass County, NE Archives

EOW: 11/1/1908 Lethal Force Involvement: Summary of Incident: Night Watchman Charles A. Ralston was shot and killed on Sunday afternoon, November 1, 1908, on the north side of the railroad tracks in Weeping Water, NE. Ralston had become suspicious of the two men that had been staying in town at the Riverside Hotel. The men had apparently come in from Union on Saturday night. A detective had been in town and had apparently shown Ralston some pictures of criminals earlier in the day. The two men had left the hotel early on Sunday morning, and upon their return, Ralston began watching and followed them when they went up the railroad tracks.

After the shooting, the men were seen running past Herman Mitchell's house. They crossed over the fence, and then across Wolcott's pastures. They were last seen heading in a north-westerly direction. According to Mitchell, he observed both men shoot and then saw them running past his house. Mitchell came out and found Ralston. Apparently Ralston was shot through the arm with the bullet passing through his chest. The bullet struck Ralston's heart and lodged in his back. It is believed that the men involved in the shooting are associates of a gang of burglars and jewel thieves working in the eastern part of Nebraska.

NIGHT WATCHMAN CHARLES A. RALSTON

EOW 11/1/1908 - Weeping Water Police Officer's Name to be Added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, May 13, 2019

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D. C. recently replied to Cass County Sheriff Bill Bruggemann after Bruggemann submitted Night Watchman Charles A. Ralston's name for consideration. An officer with the Weeping Water, NE, Police Department, Ralston was killed in the line of duty on Sunday, November 1, 1908, while attempting to apprehend a suspicious duo. Ralston's name will be formally dedicated during a Candlelight Vigil in Washington D. C. on Monday, May 13, 2019, during National Police Week. There are various accounts of the events of that lethal Sunday. According to the Omaha Daily Bee, November 2, 1908: "Suspecting that Night Watchman C. A. Ralston was going to arrest them, one of two men, thought to be the robbers of the Manley Bank five miles from here (Weeping Water), shot and instantly killed the officer about 6 o'clock Sunday afternoon."

"Immediately, the community was aroused and every man who could secure a weapon and a horse started in pursuit of the murderers. The sheriff made a fast drive from Plattsmouth in an automobile, bringing bloodhounds with him. Officers in Lincoln were notified to bring hounds and come here, as well as go to stations northwest of here in which direction the murderers went after shooting Ralston."

"The Platte River bridges are also being guarded and the man hunt has been taken up with such vigor and determination that it seems almost impossible that the murderers can escape. Feeling is so intense that only the cool heads of the prominent business men in the searching party will prevent a lynching should the men be apprehended." "The murdered nightwatchman is a member of prominent families and has lived in Weeping Water almost since boyhood. He was a terror to evildoers and a very brave man."

The Republican, November/1908: "Besides a wife, the deceased leaves six children, three boys and three girls. Two of the boys, Fred and Roy, work in Omaha. The balance of the family resides in Peru (NE) where Mrs. Ralston presides over a boarding and rooming house, her patrons being mostly students."

"The deceased was 49 years old the 15th of last October." Omaha Daily Bee, November 4, 1908: The Omaha Police were notified Tuesday morning by telephone that the two men crossed the Missouri Pacific bridge at Louisville at eight o'clock Tuesday morning and that they were going north, supposedly to Omaha. "Every avenue of escape was thought to have been watched most carefully by the Cass County sheriff and his deputies, as well as volunteers, hundreds of them of whom turned out with weapons, horses, and automobiles."

Information from the newspapers were taken from "Chronicling America, The Library of Congress" and is considered Public Domain. For more information about the May 2019 Candlelight Vigil and other National Police Week activities, contact Research Managers, Carolie Heyliger 202.737.7136 or Vanissa Varnado 202.737.7981. You may also visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund website: www.nleomf.com.

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TIM MCCONNELL STEPS DOWN AS MCPHERSON COUNTY SHERIFF

By Tammy Bain, The North Platte Telegraph

(McPherson Co. Sheriff to step down - Sept 29, 2018) - McPherson County Sheriff Tim McConnell thought he would work, live and retire at his current job, working in the Sandhills area that includes Tryon. But in recent months, McConnell, who is almost 50, wasn't feeling well. He learned that he had an 80 percent blockage of the main artery on the front of his heart, and he had to have a stent installed. When he still felt under the weather later, he learned that there was blockage on the artery on the back of his heart as well. The full-time sheriff, who also acts as the McPherson County emergency manager and has one part-time deputy, said he received the same message from his family doctor and cardiologist at Great Plains Health: "You can't be doing the one-man-show thing anymore."

McConnell left his post as McPherson County sheriff, where he started as interim sheriff in 2013. His last patrol (was) Halloween 2018. He said he requested full-time help but McPherson County commissioners declined. He always believed he would eventually face heart problems — his dad died from a heart attack at age 43. "I was hoping I'd be closer to 80," McConnell said. McConnell doesn't plan to leave law enforcement. He moved to Wisner, population 1,174, to become its police chief. He already knows he'll have one full-time officer, he said. When he arrives, he'll be tasked with hiring a second. The shift from county to city will have its changes.

"I doubt I'll be directing as much traffic for cows on the highway there as I am now," he said. As a city official, he won't serve civil papers, but will spend his time enforcing city ordinances. McConnell said his grandfather was a past Dawson County sheriff, and his mother was a jail nurse. He began ride-alongs at age 13. He joked that when he took a jail job in 2003 was when "I started getting paid" for his law enforcement work. Becoming sheriff, he said, was always the goal.

"It didn't really matter the size of the department," he said. McConnell loved his work with the residents, county attorneys and neighboring counties' sheriffs, who cross-deputized for each other when they needed help. McConnell said he's spent his time preparing to leave for Wisner trying to make McPherson County a better place for whoever becomes sheriff. Before he leaves, Tryon's lone tornado siren will be able to be set off remotely by Keith County's dispatch. Before, the sheriff or fire chief had to drive from their homes miles away to manually turn it on if there was a tornado warning, McConnell said.

"I'd like to think I left some sort of impact on the community," he said.

Read the story online at: https://www.nptelegraph.com/news/local_news/mcpherson-co-sheriff-to-step-down/article_1d19dd30-c39f-11e8-85a1-2f64f8c0c729.html

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MISDEMEANOR CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: MEETING THE FEDERAL STANDARD

The relationship to victim documentation and its impact on firearms eligibility.

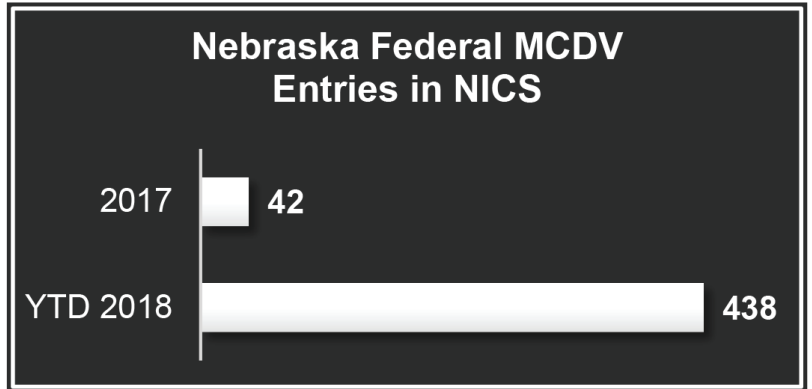
The Federal Gun Control Act applies a lifetime prohibition to those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence (MCDV) from the purchase or possession of firearms. However, in order for 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9) to apply, an offense must meet several criteria. In addition to the federal law, Nebraska has also enacted legislation under §28-1206 which prohibits those convicted of an MCDV for a period of seven years. While state law also requires the establishment of several criteria, it differs from that of federal law.

A federal database containing information on those prohibited from firearms, known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), can assist those responsible for making firearms eligibility decisions by instantly determining whether an individual is eligible. The amount of federal MCDV information available nationwide in NICS has more than tripled since 2008 due to ongoing state efforts to improve this category of records. Nebraska has been no exception. This year alone, Nebraska's amount of NICS entries under the federal MCDV prohibition have increased by over 900 percent. This will assist local law enforcement and other state and federal agencies in determining if an MCDV prohibition applies to a particular offense.

WHAT IS AN MCDV?

An MCDV is an offense that:

- 1) Is classified as a misdemeanor;
- 2) Has, as an element, the use or attempted use of physical force or the threatened use of a deadly weapon; and
- 3) At the time the offense was committed, the defendant and the victim had a qualified relationship.



While the first two criteria must be established through court documentation, a law enforcement incident report can be used to determine the relationship between the defendant and the victim. However, what is considered a qualified relationship differs between state and federal law. Federal law does not recognize merely dating as a qualified relationship. There must be evidence of further association, such as having been married at any time, current or former cohabitation, or having a child in common. Conversely, state law does recognize dating as a qualified relationship. An additional difference between state and federal law includes the parent/child relationship being recognized under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9), but not under §28-1206.

GUIDANCE FROM THE FBI NICS UNIT

Information contained within a law enforcement incident report can be crucial in determining the nature of the relationship between the defendant and the victim. Per the FBI NICS Unit, if the defendant and the victim share the same last name, it cannot be assumed the individuals are married. Similarly, if the defendant and the victim share the same address, cohabitation cannot be assumed. The relationship between the defendant and the victim must be stated within the incident report (i.e. husband/wife, live-in boyfriend/girlfriend, child in common) in order to apply the relationship component of the federal prohibition. Federal law does not recognize merely dating as a qualified relationship. There must be evidence of further association, such as having been married at any time, current or former cohabitation, or having a child in common. Conversely, state law does recognize dating as a qualified relationship. An additional difference between state and federal law includes the parent/child relationship being recognized under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9), but not under §28-1206.

Federal/State Qualified Relationship Comparison	
18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9) Lifetime prohibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or former spouse, parent, or guardian • Child in common • Cohabiting or has cohabitated as a spouse, parent, or guardian • Similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian
Nebraska §28-1206 7 year prohibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or former spouse • Child in common whether or not marriage or cohabitation existed at any time • Involved in a dating relationship as defined in section §28-323

GUIDANCE FROM THE FBI NICS UNIT

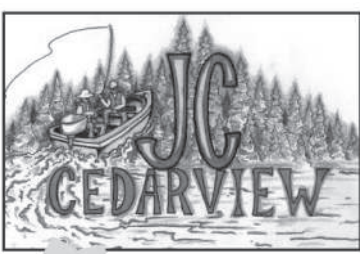
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For additional information or questions regarding firearms eligibility, please contact:

Kelsey Remmers, Nebraska State Patrol
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WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE SUZY'S PARENT?

Maybe you wanted to be in law enforcement from the time you started watching Paw Patrol or CHIPS or Lethal Weapon. It was something in your blood. Maybe you took a different path and tried different things before you got to the badge. Regardless, you put on the badge by choice. Your children didn't get to choose to be a "deputy's kid." Your children have the title by default.

Some of your kids were born under the protection of the 2nd family. There are some cute pictures out there of little sleeping babies draped in the brown uniform or nestled in the duty belt. Those pictures pull at your heart strings. Your kids start from day one, understanding the life of a law enforcement kid. Some of your kids remember when you were something else before you became a deputy. They might even remember having everyone home on holidays and everyone packing up and going to church on Sunday or mom or dad being at every event.

What is it like for your kids to be a kid of a deputy? Kids under five think it is cool having a real live hero living in the house with them. It's like having Chase (seriously the dog's name is Chase) from Paw Patrol or Captain America tuck them into bed at night. They tell people mom or dad takes bad people to jail or they help people. If you live in an area where your kiddo also goes to daycare and Sunday school and school with the same kiddos whose parents you regularly take to jail, it is best you not refer to the parents as "dirtbags". Kids can process, my mom or dad help people, keep people safe and sometimes you must give people time outs when they make a bad choice. This is also the time to make age appropriate safety plans with your kids. What is your plan for when you're in the local convenience store or Walmart (because People of Walmart will find you) and a "wolf" or someone you do not want to expose your children to comes up and starts talking to you about things you don't want your kids exposed to? Have a plan. Explain sometimes because of mom or dad's job people want to talk to them when they aren't working and sometimes it is about grown up stuff or sometimes the people aren't very nice. If mom or dad tells you to go with the other parent/older sibling, end of the aisle, quiet game etc. It means mom or dad have work stuff for a few minutes and we need you to be super quiet or be like an assistant deputy.

As kids get older, ages 6-10, we can't protect them from the media monsters. Kids are inundated with media about mass shootings, or officers killed. They also are exposed to active killer drills at school. It is so much harder to protect them because of the level of exposure. We start having to answer tough questions from them. It is easy to explain people make bad choices and sometimes people keep making bad choices and mom/dad will continue to make sure the people get consequences for making bad choices. It is harder to answer questions about why a classmate can't live with a parent due to sexual molestation. Discuss safety plans for when you are out in public and how to handle when kids say negative things about you or law enforcement in general. This is also the opportunity to talk about them making good choices and doing the right thing. Reinforce if they think they are too big to do the small things they are too small to do the big things. Do the right thing on the playground, when they see someone being bullied or eating alone.

When your kids hit the 11-16 years, it doesn't matter if you wear a uniform or if you wear a tie and are an accountant, in your child's eyes you don't know anything. It is amazing you have been able to keep yourself alive without their opinion and advice. This is a tough time for kids no matter what their parent does. They are exposed to peers who think smoking weed should be legal and there isn't anything wrong with "a little weed". They are exposed to kids who are anti-law enforcement. They can be called out as "deputy's kid", a snitch, etc. There will be windows of opportunity when they are going to ask you tough questions about your job. This will also be the opportunity to help them if they are being targeted because of what their parent does. Hopefully, you and yours have provided structure, guidance, open communication and understanding. You have given them permission to make you the bad person when they are faced with peer pressure. Your teenager may never say this to you, but they are worried every time you walk out the door to go to work. Make a commitment to tell them you love them every morning and every night, by text, snapchat, tweet, Instagram, phone or in person. Even if they left their half-eaten pizza and dirty socks in the living room for the 200th time.

Sometimes it is easier for us when talking with our children to talk "like a cop." You know what I mean by this. You shouldn't do it because it is illegal, it is wrong, people go to jail, texting is just dumb...etc. I humbly suggest taking the badge off and just be their parent. Let them know there is pressure being a "deputy's kid" and you understand it is hard being a teenager. Listen to hear, don't just listen to respond. Let them talk. Sometimes they don't need you to solve their problems, they just need someone to listen. Kids make mistakes. This doesn't mean there aren't consequences for their choices, but your love for them doesn't waiver. We love our kids, we might not love their choices. As a parent, it is difficult when our children make choices rising to the level of criminal activity. As law enforcement, we are embarrassed, frustrated, angry. As a parent we are those things also. Life is hard sometimes. Ask my 17-year-old, whose debit card was frozen due to the decline in her Algebra II grade. Times got real tough for a while, like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch tough.

Recognize your children are intuitive. Even if you try to hide the ugliness of the shift from them. They certainly don't need to know the specifics of a case but honor their intuitiveness. Acknowledge something "bad" happened and your glad to be home. Take care of yourself, check your mood. Having a bad day at work doesn't give you the right to be ugly to those who love you.

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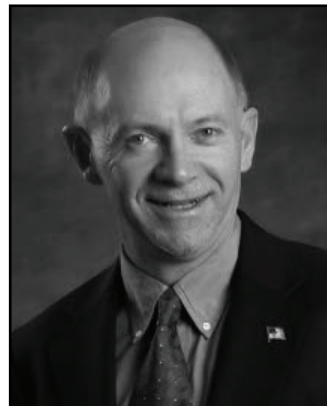


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SANTA AND THE BLUE ELVES

"Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!" (Paraphrased from *Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore)
Winston Cavendish Sun Police (Retired)

Santa waved to the children at Mandeville Elementary School, got into his black and white Ford LTD police unit, turned on the siren and his blue and red lights, and then rode into the sunset. This would be his last trip as "Santa Cop" to any school in town. He hung up his beard and costume at the old police station and then wondered what had happened to Christmas in his town. You see, "Toys for Tots" was over as he knew it. A new police chief arrived and changed the whole program, and now "Santa Cop" was not needed anymore. But it was a good run and we won't dwell on this. Instead, let's go back to the beginning of my story about "Santa Cop".

I had just arrived from Calgary, Alberta, Canada and started a new life with the Mandeville, LA Police Department. What a culture shock it was for me. The town was in a time warp trapped in the early sixties. Nothing had really changed except the calendar. Attitudes toward people of color had not changed one bit. The town was broken into two camps and the police department was caught up in the middle of it all.

The former chief of police had been a captain in the New Orleans police department. He was in charge of the city's impound lots and had no real street experience, so in a short time the police image had gotten so bad that the citizens in town would call the sheriff's office to handle all their complaints.

Eventually the mayor and town council appointed a new chief of police, Sgt. Bob Alford, a retired LA State Trooper. Alford was an excellent lawman and a man with a vision. One of his first assignments was to gain public confidence in the police department. Alford hired new officers and cleaned up his department slowly by getting rid of the trouble makers. He used a building block approach to community involvement - one step at a time.

Chief Alford hired me against all odds. I was that stinking foreigner from the great white north, aka Western Canada. I was a "peace officer" and other officers just could not understand my style of policing. I believed, as the new chief did, that public relations was the corner stone of building good rapport with the community. I talked Alford into starting several crime prevention programs including "Neighborhood Watch", "Lady Beware", and several dealing with child safety procedures. But the toughest program to sell was "Toys for Tots". Chief Alford liked it, but the other officers said that toys for kids was not a police function and should be turned over to the fire department.

But I didn't give up. My big selling point was a poster I brought to the station. The poster was of a Marine Sergeant holding a child with a toy in his arms. ("Toys for Tots" was the Marine's own program.) My sales pitch worked. Now I had to organize the program and to break it into procedural steps. Each officer was encouraged to take a special form letter with them when they handled any traffic like family problems where children were involved. We asked the officer to get the names, age, and sex of the child. Each month I would update the list, and when the holiday season rolled around, I contacted the parents for permission to add their children to the "Santa List". Keep in mind that we are talking about children in serious need of the love and affection extended through toys of hope.

I personally had no money to buy toys and most of the toys that were given to us required batteries. A great percentage of these toys were also in terrible shape and needed so much work to fix them that I decided they weren't worth the time. Instead, we got the local newspapers to help us with a campaign, inspiring clubs, churches, and businesses to contribute money to the cause. We bought toys from hold and restock sales at half off or lower. The type of toys we bought were sporting goods and equipment like balls, bats, and basketball hoops. We accepted any freebies, and purchased plush dolls and stuffed animals for younger children. None of these toys needed batteries.

I also wrote to the South Center Shopping Mall in Calgary and had my friends send me two large boxes of gloves and tock's (Canadian hats). On Christmas morning, over one hundred children were running around Mandeville with maple leaf hats and gloves!

Local police officers (the "Blue Elves") and their families were, indeed,

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Santa's little helpers. They wrapped the toys and then matched each gift to a child on Santa's map. The first year, 42 homes were on the map and I was Santa, delivering the toys in my police unit. Sometimes strange events occurred while I was delivering toys. One Christmas morning, a parent was so captivated by Santa coming to his home to give his three-year-old daughter a large plush giraffe that he broke down in tears. Following me to my police unit, he told me his life of crime was over and I witnessed that he was a changed man in the months to come.

In another incident, dispatch contacted me as I was delivering toys and reported that State Troopers were chasing a car over one hundred miles an hour down Highway 190 East toward Lacombe, LA. They requested a road block, so I set it up in the middle of the highway. The driver saw my unit, hit the ditch and tore up his dad's new Lincoln town car. The young man proceeded to crawl out of a window and run across the road. I tackled him in the middle of the highway, but as I reached for my handcuffs I couldn't find them at first. They were under my stuffed pillow stomach. After all, I was Santa!

I snapped the young man up to his feet and helped put him into the trooper's unit. I told him that the "blue elves" were upset and that there would be no Christmas for him this year. The two troopers laughed aloud when the boy asked who I was. I replied, of course, that I was Santa. I never went to court on this case, or shall I say Santa didn't, but he did go to the "iron hotel" with the blue elves.

I dedicate this Christmas story to my good friend, the late Chief Bob Alford. May he rest in peace. Donate or set up a Toys for Tots drive next year. Find information at: <https://www.toysfortots.org>






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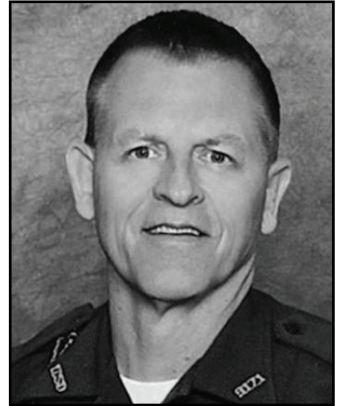
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