



TopCops International NewsMagazine

NOVEMBER 2006 – Volume 4

TopCops on the Internet - <http://www.topcops.com/>



1927 Treasury "Guards" now Police.

TopCops International NewsMagazine

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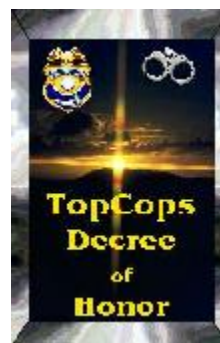


**MEN AND WOMEN
OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD**
WWW.TOPCOPS.COM

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- 50-years-to-life sentence upheld for 15-year-old killer
- 2 PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS TO DECIDE BENNETT'S
- FBI warnings
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- Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement Seizes 480 lbs of Marijuana
- Cover photos submitted by members, Greg O'Hara & Tim Stacy
- Alabama police officer killed
- Trial begins – accused cop killer
- Part 1 repeated and part 2 – Fred Leland's article

Job Opportunities: submitted by member Derwin Pannell
Calgary Police Service is hiring www.calgarypolice.ca ,
www.calgarypolice.ca/recruiting/html/home.htm



**Would you like to receive TopCops coveted webpage award?
Submit your webpage for consideration to Deborah Gulley at
LawWoman@TopCops.com or Mike Passig at
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<http://www.topcops.com>





**A RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT EMAIL DISCUSSION LIST
UNITED**



LawWoman@TopCops.com or Gary Gorman at NYPD24423@AOL.COM

WE STAND & DISCUSS...the facts, just the facts! TopCops-L is an email discussion list that is restricted to LE personnel only. While we carefully screen all applicants for the list, it must be remembered that the Internet itself is not a totally secure method of communication. We also can not control who has access to the postings at each email address that they are sent to. There is always the possibility that unauthorized personnel are going to view postings there, particularly where the postings are received on a departmental server. Members are reminded that postings here should only contain information that they are able to stand behind. To join, contact Deborah Gulley at LawWoman@TopCops.com or Gary Gorman at NYPD24423@AOL.COM

גיא גרוסמן ויוזב אראל שולחים ברכת שלום לשוטרי העולם מחברי



ערוץ השוטרים הישראלי

A hearty hello from our friends of #Israel Cops

L-ISBAH XEWQAT LIL HBIEB KOLLHA TA' 'TOP COPS' MILL GZIRA TA' MALTA, U MIS-SURGENT JOSEPH BORDA, TAL PULIZIJA TA' MALTA. **Best wishes to all at 'Top Cops' from the island of Malta and from Sgt. Joseph Borda, Malta Police.**

En hälsning till alla svensk talande TopCops och TopCops vänner. Vi hoppas att ni har det bra, var i än befinner er, och att ni uppskattar vårt nyhetsbrev. Med vänliga hälsningar Redaktionen. A greeting to all Swedish speaking TopCops and TopCops friends. We hope that you are fine, wherever you are, and that you appreciate Newsletter. With kind regards. The editorial staff.

Viele Gruesse von den deutschen Polizeibeamten, die Mitglieder und Freunde der "TopCops from Around the world" sind!...Volkmar, a German Police Officer Greetings from German Officers who are members and friends of "TopCops from Around the world".

Salute a tutti gli TopCops intorno al mondo. Spero che vi piace il TopCops giornalino, Tanti saluti dal vostro amico della Legge Fabio. Greetings to all TopCops from Around the World. Be safe and enjoy TopCops Newsletter, your brother officer, Fabio.

Ōīdīøèé Ååfti, İðèääðñdåóéðå ê ñàîñó èð÷øàíó İåæóíàðđíåñó Æóðíæó Ííåñdåé Äëý ñèèèèè à ìèðå TopCops! Áéääíåðèè àñåî ãàøè ÷èåíåî. (Harry Meyer) Good Day, Welcome to the best International News Magazine for Police in the World... TopCops! Thanks to all our members.

(Dutch/Flemish)

Goeie dag, welkom bij het beste on-line internationaal Nieuwsmagazine voor politie-agenten wereldwijd ... TopCops ! Aan al onze leden, bedankt.

(French)

Bonjour, bienvenue chez le premier on-line périodique de nouvelles pur officiers de police du monde entier ... TopCops ! Merçi à tous nos membres. (Werner Glassee)

Bonjour! Bienvenue à la meilleure revue internationale pour policiers à travers le monde disponible sur l'internet... TopCops! Merçi à tous nos membres. (Randall Perry) **Hello! Welcome to the best International magazine for police officers throughout the world available on the internet...TopCops! Thanks to all our members."**

¡Buenos días y bienvenidos a la mejor revista internacional cybernética para policías del mundo entero... Top Cops! Gracias a todos nuestros miembros. (Officer Jose Rodriguez, P.R)

(French by Mike) "Bienvenue de bonne journée au magazine de nouvelles international en ligne le plus fin pour la police dans les mercis supérieurs de cannettes de fil du monde... à tous nos membres. "

(Spanish, Mexican version) "Buenos Dias, Bienvenidos al la mejor linea internaccional de internet de la revist mundial de polocias..."TopCops"- Agradecemos a todos los subscriptores por su apoyo e interes" (Mike Wegner)



What about resisting arrest? If a undercover officer or detective approaches an individual involved in criminal activity and the perp flees...can the perp be guilty of resisting arrest if the officer never identifies himself/herself and never actually tells the person they are under arrest? One member has this to say on the subject:

Derwin is a regular contributor to the Newsmagazine. He is a retired member of NYPD and writes this on the subject of resisting arrest...Thanks Derwin.

When you are told by a police officer that you are under arrest and you do not comply you are resisting. There are several factors that constitute this. You refuse, you elude, you threaten to use force against or provide false identification to a police officer when making the arrest. At this point a person can be considered having resisting arrest.

There are always cases in news about people resisting arrest and what has happens in those cases. http://english.people.com.cn/200610/26/eng20061026_315329.html When they were told they are under arrest they fought back. In most cases people listen and they do not fight.

In all cases it is the responsibility of the officer when they are in uniform or in plainclothes to tell the person or persons that they are under arrest. This always has to be done to avoid legal situations. You place them under arrest and you read them there Miranda Rights. When told they are under arrest they may ask why or say there is a mistake being made.

Making an arrest is more easy I think when the police officer is in uniform. People maybe less likely to resist. The people can see who you are and there is no doubt. But when you are in plainclothes people question you and my think that you are not a law enforcement officer and resist being placed under arrest. At least until they know who you are. Its always important to always identify yourself. D.Pannell, Retired NYPD

I would like to read your thoughts on this matter, send me an email to LawWoman@TopCops.com

State appeals court finds term not cruel, unusual punishment

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/10/25/BAGDKLVGVJ1.DTL&feed=rss.bayarea>

Bob Egelko, Chronicle Staff Writer - This article appeared Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Sentencing a 15-year-old to 50 years to life in prison for two murders does not violate the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment, a state appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year that barred execution of murderers who were under 18 when they committed their crimes does not prevent states from imposing lengthy sentences on juveniles convicted of serious crimes, said the Second District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles. The same panel, in fact, had upheld a sentence of life without the possibility of parole in a previous ruling in this case, before Attorney General Bill Lockyer's office pointed out that the maximum term under California law for a defendant under age 16 is 25 years to life.

A Los Angeles County judge then resentenced Michael Demirdjian to two consecutive 25-years-to-life terms for the bludgeoning slayings of 13-year-old Christopher McCulloch and 14-year-old Blaine Talmo Jr. on a school playground in La Crescenta (Los Angeles County) in July 2000. "If, as we previously held, a life sentence without possibility of parole is not constitutionally excessive, surely this one is not," the three-judge panel said in a ruling that was published as a precedent for future cases. Demirdjian, who had no previous criminal record, was convicted of murder by torture for the schoolyard killings.

Prosecutors said the killings were related to a drug deal in which Blaine had allegedly acted as a go-between. The boys were beaten and their skulls crushed with rocks, and a 60-pound bench was found across Christopher's chest and neck, according to evidence quoted by the appeals court. Demirdjian continues to deny guilt, said his appellate lawyer, Fay Arfa. She said she will appeal to the state Supreme Court on the grounds that the punishment is excessive and was not clearly authorized by state law. Juveniles as young as 14 and 15 should not be subject to life sentences, Arfa said, because they are "particularly vulnerable and susceptible to negative influences and peer pressure."

E-mail Bob Egelko at beigelko@sfchronicle.com.

Posted on Tue, Oct. 24, 2006 - Angelucci: Keep killer in jail for life
2 PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS TO DECIDE BENNETT'S FATE

By Frank E. Lockwood

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/local/15833571.htm?source=rss&channel=kentucky_local

FRANKFORT - A prosecutor, police officers and the parents of murdered Fayette County deputy sheriff Joseph Angelucci asked the state's parole board yesterday to keep Angelucci's killer locked up for the next 102 years. Witnesses praised Angelucci as a hard-working lawman and a devoted son who was protecting the community when he was gunned down 18 years ago. They portrayed the murderer, William Bennett, as a threat to society.

Joyce Angelucci said her son "gave his all, gave his life And a part of me also died." The thought that Bennett can seek early release "has haunted me night and day for 18 years," she said.

"It seems so unfair that a convicted killer is permitted to leave a jail cell and go before a parole board such as you and ask to be released early, for whatever reason, before he has served the sentence that was imposed on him by the court. The innocent person that he murdered can never leave the cemetery. He cannot go before any board and ask for early release from his grave. He is there forever."

Several Fayette County deputies, in uniform, stood along the back wall while Angelucci spoke, their badges draped in black. During the 50-minute hearing, board members sat attentively while Fayette County Sheriff Kathy Witt, Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson and others urged them to keep Bennett behind bars. Board members expressed sympathy for the Angeluccis but had no questions about the case.

Deputy Angelucci was attempting to take Bennett, a mildly retarded and delusional paranoid schizophrenic, to a mental institution on Nov. 4, 1988, when the shooting occurred. Bennett, who already had been committed three times, didn't want to be locked up again. So he struggled with Angelucci, took away the deputy's gun and shot him one time, witnesses said.

The 24-year-old deputy was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he clung to life for nearly three weeks. He died Nov. 23, the night before Thanksgiving. Hundreds of Lexingtonians donated blood, sent get-well cards or helped keep vigil at the

hospital. Nearly 400 law enforcement officers attended Angelucci's funeral.

Prosecutors sought the death penalty. A jury found Bennett guilty of wanton murder, but mentally ill. They sentenced him to an indeterminate sentence of up to 120 years in prison. Yesterday's hearing in Frankfort was limited to Angelucci's friends, family and colleagues. On Thursday, Bennett will have the opportunity to testify in La Grange during a videoconference hearing.

In an interview with the Herald-Leader on Friday, Bennett claimed to be Howard Hughes and Col. Sanders, a bank owner, a restaurateur and the founder of the first mental hospital in France. Bennett also said he does not want to be paroled, believing that the board should simply release him from prison. On Friday, Bennett said he did not intend to meet the board. However, if he changes his mind, he will have the opportunity to speak on his own behalf, board officials said.

Two board members, M. Douglas Gibson of Elizabethtown and Verman Ray Winburn of Simpsonville, will decide Bennett's fate. If they disagree with each other, the matter will be decided by the full seven-member board. The board rejected parole for Bennett when it met six years ago. It has the power to release him, to defer a decision or to order him to serve the complete sentence.

Yesterday, a board member said Bennett apparently is not represented by an attorney. In a recent interview, Joyce Angelucci, 80, vowed to speak out against Bennett's release for as long as she lives. But she worried what would happen after she and her husband, former Fayette Circuit Judge Armand Angelucci, 86, die.

She said she hopes the board will rule out the possibility of parole for Bennett, so she and her husband can have closure. Witt, the Fayette County sheriff, says opposition to Bennett's release won't end any time soon. "We'll be back. We'll be back as long as we're living and breathing and able to come," she said. Reach Frank Lockwood at (859) 231-3211 or 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3211, or flockwood@herald-leader.com



I think Mike made that shot, what about you? Mike has been a member of TopCops on the Internet for many years now. He is critiques webpages submitted for our coveted TopCops on the Internet webpage award! Contact Mike at Servantwithattitude@charter.net

This item was submitted by member Tim Stacy. Tim is always ready to submit great photos and useful information andl inks for our readers. Thanks Tim,

Troops.....FYI - The following link is to a website that has alot of detailed information on current license plates throughout North America. It could be helpful for investigation, etc. <http://www.l5q.net/index.html> Thanks Tim
Ofc. Timothy T. Stacy - Dearborn Police Department - Motor Carrier Unit / Auto-Pound Coordinator Unit
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Posted on Fri, Oct. 13, 2006

FBI chief warns of 'crossover' extremists

New leader of counterterror unit says it wouldn't take much for groups to join behind a mutual goal

By Lara Jakes Jordan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/nation/15748946.htm?source=rss&channel=cctimes_nation

WASHINGTON - Terrorists from different extremist groups who unite against a common cause -- such as the United States -- may be among the next big threats to America, the FBI's newly promoted counterterror chief says.

FBI Assistant Director Joseph Billy Jr., named Thursday as the permanent chief of the agency's counterterrorism division, said there's no evidence yet of "crossover" extremists in the U.S.

But "there's always the potential of the like-minded individuals rising up against their home country," Billy said.

"Groups cross lines, and we have to look at it less defined (instead of) to say we're looking strictly at Hezbollah, looking at Hamas," Billy said. "In a coffee shop, it doesn't take much for the rhetoric to incite and recruit people. You may be aligned with one particular cause, but the fact is you have a common enemy. And the common enemy means that people can team up."

Billy had been the FBI's acting counterterror chief since June. He heads up one of the FBI's largest divisions, overseeing 101 Joint Terror Task Force teams nationwide, with thousands of ongoing investigations at any given time.

August's foiled plot by British nationals conspiring to blow up as many as 10 U.S.-bound airlines underscored the need for international counterterror coordination, Billy said. Such work, he said, could be likened to a sort of global terror task force -- even though the FBI's investigations would remain in the United States.

"We've really moved beyond the borders of the United States, and really working as partners against this threat that faces many countries, not just the United States," he said.

The soft-spoken FBI veteran of 20 years whose name plate on his desk is spelled out in Arabic, led the investigation of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombing in Tanzania. That same year, he led a delegation of FBI agents to Northern Ireland to help local police on a terror investigation. He also has worked in FBI field offices in New York and New Jersey.

Ohio State Police Release Details of Fatal Crash

This appeared Friday, October 13, 2006 ; 02:53 PM

<http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=15039>

Report shows that the trooper driving the car had been drinking. Ohio State Highway Patrol investigators said today the officer driving a patrol car during an accident that killed three people had been drinking. Two Ohio State Highway Patrol officers and a Gallia County woman were killed during the September 28 crash.

According to a release from Highway Patrol, investigators have determined the 2005 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor patrol car driven by Trooper Joshua P. Risner, 29, with Sgt. Dale R. Holcomb, 45, riding as a passenger, was traveling between 60 and 71 mph eastbound on Jackson Pike, with its emergency lights and siren activated, according to a release from Ohio State Police

The vehicle lost control, spun into the westbound lane and struck the 2004 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Lori Smith. Smith, 32, was traveling between 10 to 20 mph and moving to the right at the approach of the patrol car.

A blood test conducted as part of the autopsy of Risner, drawn from the body's deep cavity area, indicates a blood alcohol concentration of .08. An earlier sample drawn from the jugular vein area tested .000 blood alcohol concentration, the release said.

Smith's toxicology showed no alcohol was present. However, Smith's blood test did indicate the presence of marijuana metabolites, the release said. Holcomb's blood test was negative. Highway Patrol has launched a separate but related investigation to determine when and where Risner could have ingested alcohol. The collision occurred in the westbound lane of Jackson Pike, just west of Mitchell Road. According to the release, Risner had just picked up Holcomb at his residence. Risner was approaching the end of his shift and Holcomb was beginning his shift.

Investigators said radio traffic from Risner or Holcomb does not indicate why or where the officers were heading. But timelines of radio traffic from other officers, including an off-duty trooper who was transporting his un-responsive infant son to the hospital in a cruiser, lead them to believe Risner and Holcomb overheard the radio traffic and were headed toward the hospital or toward the route that the off-duty trooper would have taken to the hospital.

The impact and damage to both vehicles was described by investigators as massive, the release said. Reports from the Ohio State Fire Marshall and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding the cause of the fire are pending.

No information has been retrieved from either vehicle's black box to this point because of the damage from the fire and impact. Holcomb was a 21-year Highway Patrol veteran. Risner was a seven-year Highway Patrol veteran; both were assigned to the Gallipolis Patrol Post. Smith was from Vinton.

Man who killed Lino Lakes police officer is sentenced to prison

http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=136920



A South Dakota man who killed a Lino Lakes police officer during a highway chase last year has been sentenced to 40 years in state prison, the maximum allowed under state law.

Steven Stanke also was sentenced Friday to an additional year and nine months for injuring another man he crashed into. Stanke was high on methamphetamine and driving a stolen car at the time.

Last month, Stanke, 27, of Sioux Falls, pleaded guilty to fleeing police resulting in the death of officer Shawn Silvera, a married father of two. Stanke also pleaded guilty to fleeing police resulting in great bodily harm.

Stanke's vehicle was traveling between 90 mph and 110 mph on Sept. 6, 2005 when he hit Silvera and he showed no signs of braking. Silvera was laying tire-

flattening devices, or stop sticks, on 35W to try to stop Stanke. In a letter Stanke wrote after Silvera's death, he said: "If I could trade my life for his in return, I would. I never meant to kill nobody." Stanke also apologized in Anoka County court.

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement Seizes 480 lbs of Marijuana

Press Release Date: Monday, June 05, 2006

Contact Information: Bobby Clue
Information Officer
502-564-3276
bobbyi.clue@ky.gov



(Frankfort, KY) - Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement (KVE) Commissioner Greg Howard announced today the seizure of over 480 pounds of processed marijuana in Laurel County. "These drugs have a street value of more than \$440,000 dollars and this action takes a significant amount of illegal drugs off the streets and out of our communities," remarked Commissioner Howard.

On Monday, June 5, 2006, at approximately 10:00AM (EST), Officer Randall Honeycutt conducted a traffic stop on a Blue 1994 Nissan Quest Mini Van. The traffic stop occurred at the 34 mile marker on I-75 North, in Laurel County.

After talking with the driver, Officer Honeycutt detected a strong odor of processed marijuana. It was determined that further inspection was warranted. Officer Joey Conn assisted Officer Honeycutt in further inspection of the vehicle.

During the search, 39 bundles of marijuana, weighing approximately 12.5 pounds each, were discovered inside the vehicle. Jaziel Martinez, 23 years of age, of Veracruz, Mexico, was arrested and charged with Trafficking in Marijuana over five pounds. He was lodged in the Laurel County Detention Center with bond for his release not yet set.

"I commend all of the officers involved for their dedication to making Kentucky a safer place to live for all its citizens," said Commissioner Howard. The investigation is being led by KVE Lt. Greg Jenkins. The DEA are also assisting as the investigation continues.

Laurel County was recently the location of the largest marijuana seizure in Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement history with over 1,300 pounds of marijuana being seized at an estimated street value of over \$1.5 million dollars.

[Ala. police officer dies in motorcycle wreck](#) - Two others die in separate wrecks over weekend By ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT, Published: Oct 16, 2006
The following article appeared on the indicated website <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/4406976.html>

An Alabama police officer was killed along Interstate 12 in Denham Springs Sunday morning after his rear motorcycle tire burst, causing him and his fiancée to be thrown from the bike into the median, authorities said.

Birmingham Police Sgt. Joseph Hill, 45, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Livingston Parish Coroner's Office, said Denham Springs Police spokesman Sgt. James Edwards. Hill's passenger, 44-year-old Charlotte Garrett, was brought to Oschner Hospital with minor injuries.

The wreck happened at 8:11 a.m. near the Denham Springs exit on I-12 when Hill "hit or ran over something, causing his rear wheel to fishtail," Edwards said. "According to the other riders in his group, it looked like he was getting control of it," Edwards said. "But when he hit edge of the interstate, he lost it and flipped over a few times."

Hill was returning to Birmingham with a motorcycle club made up of law enforcement officers from Alabama, Edwards said. They were returning from a ride in California and had only 400 miles to travel when the crash happened.

"We felt pretty bad and we did everything we could do for them. We even sent a chaplain to the hospital," Edwards said. "They are like our brothers. It was just an unfortunate accident." In Ascension Parish, a single car wreck claimed the life of a Paincourtville man just before 6 p.m. on Saturday, a Louisiana State Police news release says.

Kelso Alsay, 33, was killed when his 1999 Infiniti G20 was traveling east on La. 70, east of La. 3127. He lost control of his car when he was exiting a left-hand curve, rolled and struck several trees before stopping. Alsay was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the Ascension Parish Coroner's Office. In Livingston Parish, a Walker man died Friday night after his pickup truck drifted off La. 447, struck an embankment and went airborne, State Police reported.

Ronnie Tull, 41, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Livingston Parish Coroner's Office after being ejected from his 1983 Toyota truck, State Troop A reported. The wreck happened at 10:12 p.m. north of Walker. Alcohol use is not suspected and Tull was not wearing a seat belt, Troop A reported.

SAN FRANCISCO - Trial begins today for man accused of killing officer Defense may argue shooting stemmed from mistaken ID

[Jaxon Van Derbeken, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)
Monday, October 16, 2006



Espinoza

Hill

Two-and-a-half years after San Francisco police Officer Isaac Espinoza was gunned down on the street, his alleged killer is scheduled to go on trial today for murder. David Hill, now 23, is accused of shooting Espinoza and wounding his partner, Officer Barry Parker, after Espinoza confronted Hill on a street in the Bayview neighborhood on April 10, 2004, and asked for his identification.

Prosecutors say Hill, a gang member who had been in trouble since age 10, was packing an AK-47-style assault rifle under his coat and was gunning for a member of a rival gang, whom he blamed for the killing of a friend. Espinoza, 29, a plainclothes officer whose job was to combat drugs and gangs, got in the way, prosecutors say. The killer shot Espinoza twice; he died at the hospital a short time later. Parker, then 37, was wounded in the ankle and is expected to testify in the trial.

Last week, Hill pleaded guilty to being a member of the Westmob gang, one of the five allegations against him. Prosecutors had argued that his plea would rob them of a chance to present a full picture of what led up to the slaying,

including details of Westmob's street war with another Bayview gang, Big Block. Superior Court Judge Carol Yaggy accepted the plea, saying it would not limit the prosecution's ability to prove its case.

In jury selection, the defense has suggested that Hill may acknowledge having killed Espinoza but will claim he mistook Espinoza for a gang rival and fired in self-defense.

If convicted of first-degree murder with special circumstances of killing a police officer, Hill faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. District Attorney Kamala Harris, who said during her 2003 campaign that she opposed capital punishment, ruled out the death penalty for Hill within days of his arrest, prompting an outcry from police and political figures, including Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Prosecutors cite several pieces of evidence against Hill, including DNA on the assault rifle that allegedly matches his, hair found on a hat near the scene that police say came from Hill, and identification with his name on it that was found about a block from where Espinoza was shot.

Hill admitted to his grandmother the night Espinoza died that he had shot someone, according to her testimony in a preliminary hearing. The prosecution also is expected to call as many as three jailhouse informants who say Hill told them he had killed the officer.

Looming over the case is the role of a police informant, Marvin Jeffery Jr., 26, the convicted felon who turned Hill in the day after the slaying but also gave him the assault rifle that was used to kill Espinoza. Jeffery vanished after authorities freed him from custody on bank fraud charges in exchange for his testimony. North Carolina authorities caught up with him Sept. 8, and he has been in custody since.

A hearing will be held during the trial without the jury being present in which prosecutors and defense attorneys will quiz Jeffery about what he might testify to if he is called as a witness. He is on the prosecution witness list, but it is not clear whether he will testify.

Hill's lawyer, Martin Sabelli, has challenged Jeffery's credibility and said that without his testimony, the jury will not get the full story in the case. Jeffery told police that Hill had said he killed a police officer the night of April 10. Police investigators say Jeffery told them that Hill had been gunning for a member of the Big Block gang. "Somebody was gonna get it," Jeffery told officers.

When Espinoza and Parker tried to stop Hill, they were half a block from where the mother of a Big Block member lived, police say. Jeffery said Hill had explained that he opened fire on the officers because "he'd rather go out like that than be caught with an assault rifle."

"That's what they get for trying to harass me for nothing," Jeffery said Hill told him. "They had no reason to even jump out on me." The trial is expected to last at least three months.

Isaac Anthony Espinoza, 29, was a decorated plainclothes officer assigned to the anti-gang unit in the Bayview police district at the time he was slain.

He grew up in Daly City, graduated from Westmoor High School and joined the San Francisco Police Department after studying at Skyline College in San Bruno. He resisted requests from relatives that he transfer out of the Bayview, telling his wife, Renata, that he wanted to stay "for the good people who live there."

Espinoza joined the Bayview station anti-gang team in 2002 but soon suffered injuries while chasing a suspect that nearly ended his career. After spending a year on disability, he returned to duty in early 2003. He was slain April 10, 2004. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Isabella, who was 3 at the time he was killed.

David Nathan Lee Hill, 23, grew up in the West Point housing project in San Francisco's Hunters Point, one of six children. When he was 8, Hill's school labeled him as severely emotionally disturbed. He was repeatedly suspended for fighting in subsequent years, and by age 15, a police report labeled him a member of the Bayview neighborhood gang Westmob.

Hill was arrested for having a gun in October 2000 and allegedly told investigators, "Brothers have to be protecting themselves. That's why I had the gun." After being kicked out of a juvenile facility for fighting, Hill went to the California Youth Authority. A probation department assessment concluded he read at a third-grade level. He was released from the Youth Authority in mid-2002, about two years before Espinoza was killed. He has a daughter by his girlfriend, who was pregnant at the time of the shooting. *E-mail Jaxon Van Derbeken at jvanderbeken@sfgchronicle.com.*

SAN FRANCISCO

Lawyer says gang member thought officer was a rival Murder trial opens with clash over details of fatal confrontation

[Jaxon Van Derbeken, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

The man on trial in the killing of a San Francisco police officer styled himself as a "100 percent thug" and shot the plainclothes officer for getting in the way of an intended gang hit, the prosecution said Monday.

The defense countered that David Hill, 23, was doing nothing more than shopping for marijuana on the street the night he shot Officer Isaac Espinoza, but had every reason to believe the plainclothes officer was a gang rival looking to kill him in dangerous territory.

Hill is accused of firing a dozen rounds from an assault rifle April 10, 2004, at Espinoza and his partner on a Bayview district street. Two of the shots hit Espinoza, 29, killing him.

In his opening statement in a packed courtroom, prosecutor Harry Dorfman told the seven-woman, five-man jury that Hill was a "dedicated gang member" who saw the two "dedicated officers" -- Espinoza and his partner, Officer Barry Parker -- as enemies who could keep him from avenging the death of a gang comrade.

Hill was on rival turf, just half a block from the house where a gang rival whom Hill blamed for killing his friend was staying, Dorfman said. He was carrying an assault rifle under his peacoat, the prosecutor said. "This was Westmob revenge -- payback for a drive-by murder that occurred two months before," Dorfman said, referring to the Bayview gang to which Hill belonged.

Hill pleaded guilty last week to participating in a street gang. On Monday, Martin Sabelli, Hill's attorney, readily admitted that his client was a gang member and had been armed with an AK-47-style rifle for his protection. In fact, he made it the crux of his self-defense argument.

Hill had a "bull's-eye on his back" because of his gang affiliation, Sabelli said. "To hesitate, as a gang member on rival turf in the Bayview, is to die." To bolster his portrayal of Hill as a gun-toting thug, Dorfman showed the jury a photo in which Hill had a handgun in one hand and was flashing a W sign for Westmob in the other. On his lap was a shotgun.

The prosecutor also quoted from a number of letters, rap lyrics and other writings that Hill kept at his mother's home in Richmond. In the writings, Hill boasted that he was a "thugged out" gang member "livin the mob life." "Digging graves is my thang," Hill wrote in one rap lyric.

He said in another lyric that he carried assault weapons, which he called "kaydas," and that they were more powerful than the Glock handguns of his rivals. "F -- da fed & cops!" Hill wrote in another lyric. "I'm blowing up ya spot!" In another lyric, he said he would "send shots from chop at cop cars" -- a slang expression for an assault rifle attack on police.

Sabelli dismissed the writings as "puffing," saying it was expected that gang members such as Hill would boast to build a menacing reputation in a "war zone." "Puffing is what part of what made up David's mind-set," he said.

He said Hill had ventured out the night Espinoza was killed with no other mission than to buy marijuana, but had gone armed with an assault rifle just in case. Sabelli said the killing happened on a "drug-infested short street" that Hill deemed the "safest, closest place" to buy dope. "David Hill wanted to buy marijuana," Sabelli said, and when officers recovered the discarded peacoat, "that's what police found."

He said Hill had made the snap decision to open fire when neither Espinoza nor Parker, both in plain clothes and driving an unmarked car, identified themselves as police officers when they tried to stop Hill at Newhall Street and Newcomb Avenue.

Dorfman, however, said that Espinoza had called out, "Stop police!" twice -- and that Hill had volunteered that he had no identification on him -- before Hill pulled his rifle from under his peacoat and opened fire. Parker, who is expected to testify for the prosecution, was wounded in the ankle by shrapnel.

Minutes before the shooting, Dorfman added, people on the street had shouted, "Woo, woo, woo," signaling the approach of police officers. Sabelli disputed any such conclusion. "Isaac Espinoza did not look like an African American gang member," Dorfman said, showing a photo of the officer. "The defendant knew that Isaac Espinoza was not an African American gang member."

Sabelli countered that Hill had focused mainly on Parker, who is African American and had his gun drawn. He said his client had felt "cornered" when the two men got out of the car. After the slaying, Hill dumped the weapon and his coat -- which contained his identification -- in the driveways of nearby homes. DNA from Hill and another, unknown man was found on the grip of the weapon, Dorfman said.

Knowing he was a suspect, Hill soon showed up at his grandmother's nearby home and told her he thought he had shot someone, Dorfman said. The next day he went to a hospital in San Ramon, where Dorfman said he was "acting crazy."

Hill carried a large plastic flower, groaned and talked about picking 100 pounds of cotton a day, Dorfman said. He talked about his master having beaten him and changed his "routine," and at one point shouted, "Guards, I'm Julius Caesar, I need to return to Rome!" the prosecutor said.

Hill urinated on the floor and then rubbed his hands in it, which Dorfman suggested was intended to foil a gunshot residue test. Sabelli admitted that Hill had faked being mentally ill. But he blamed a police informant who is on the prosecution witness list, Marvin Jeffery, as the "director" of the play-acting job. Jeffery also supplied the weapon used in the attack, prosecutors say. Jeffery is an inveterate liar, has a history of identity theft and should be called "Mr. Fraud," the defense attorney said. *E-mail Jaxon Van Derbeken at jvanderbeken@sfchronicle.com.*

Interpersonal Communications and Officer Survival: How Understanding The Boyd Cycle and Non-Verbal Communication Can Save a Law Enforcement Officer's Life!

http://www.d-n-i.net/fcs/leland_ooda_police.htm#leland#leland

Fred T. Leland Jr.*

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Introduction

According to FBI statistics, over 50,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year. One out of every three officers assaulted is injured, and approximately 70 officers make the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties, losing their lives. While safety and survival issues have made great strides over the last twenty years, we are still missing a vital link to that survival training: the understanding of interpersonal communication and how it relates to police officer survival. We study interpersonal communication in an effort to get more productivity out of organizations and more satisfaction out of our personal relationships. An important link, however in interpersonal communications is the relationship between a law enforcement officer's encounter with a citizen and how that communication—read properly or improperly—relates to survival on the street. The subtle signs of danger that are often missed by officers are key to an officer's winning conflicts on the street, whether through verbal persuasion, hands on defensive tactics, or deadly force.

To insure that the reader has a full understanding of what law enforcement officers face when handling dangerous encounters, we will first look at the law and what information law enforcement officers must know and understand thoroughly in order to reduce friction in decision making. Second, we will look at an actual incident that I have used training law enforcement officers. This incident starts off as what we in law enforcement call an "unknown risk incident." It is a car stop initially that slowly turns into an all-out assault on the officer, an assault that I believe could have been prevented if proper observations, orientations, decisions and actions were made and taken. Finally we will discuss the Boyd Cycle, how it relates to this particular case study and its overall importance to law enforcement officers when understood and used properly. The Boyd Cycle will give law enforcement the edge it needs to win on the street, the edge necessary to take the initiative and defend themselves physically from dangerous encounters. For those reading this article it is important to understand that this paper is specifically related to how understanding the Boyd Cycle and non-verbal communication can save a law enforcement officer's life!

The law

We look to the law in the area of use of force to gain a better understanding of the types of issues law enforcement must contend with in dynamic encounters. In the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Graham v. Connor* (1989), the Court mandated that the correct test to measure the appropriateness of an officer's actions is by using the "objective reasonableness" standard. The reasonableness of an officer's actions is not subject to interpretations from others outside of the profession but is to be judged from the perspective of a "reasonable officer." The Supreme Court went on to say that officers' actions should be judged without regard to the intent or motivation of the responding officer. Further, such decisions should be made "from the perspective of a reasonable officer coping with a tense, fast evolving scene, rather than with 20/20 hindsight" (Graham, 1989, p. 1872). The Graham decision provides a basis that can be used to examine the role and factors that are important to the legal determination and evaluation of the "reasonableness" of an officer's actions. However, the decision clearly states that "reasonableness ... is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application" (Graham, 1989, p. 1981). It is evident that no policy or other organizational procedure is capable of providing precise definition as to what appropriate force is or how much force should be used. Thus, the only approach that can approximate this standard is one that roughly estimates the situational context in which force incidents occur. Kappeler (1997, p. 72) states that these factors include:

1. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the officer or others;
2. The severity of the crime;
3. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest; or
4. Whether the suspect is attempting to escape custody.

The importance of the factors stated by Kappeler (1997) and the Graham decision cannot be overstated. These factors represent the apparent danger or element of risk both clearly evident and perceived by officers as they arrive at a scene and interact with citizens and suspects. Skolnick (1966) spoke of "symbolic assailant" factors, which are elements of encounters possessed by the suspect. There is a combination of individual, situational, and environmental elements that contribute to the totality of the circumstances. We must examine all of the Kappeler elements, stated above, which identify the perceived risk to the officer or others in the immediate area.

The situation

There are at least three elements that need to be included in any examination of the correct police response. The first element is threat. Threat includes situational clues that are given by the suspect, as well as environmental concerns. The second element is the severity of the offense to which the officer is responding. Past experience of the officer may put the officer on guard as to what type of person or situation he or she is dealing with. Severity of the offense may be considered part of the overall threat perceived by the officer, but in this study, we looked into the non-verbal communication as a predetermining factor of overall threat. In an ideal world this should be the key element that determines if an officer acted correctly in using physical force. However, given the nature of society and the unpredictability of human beings, other situational factors must be considered.

The problem

Law enforcement officers spend months training at the academy, learning criminal law, criminal procedure, use of force, firearms, defensive tactics, community policing strategies, investigations and officer survival tactics, etc. This training is necessary and critical to how they perform their jobs in their communities once out of the academy. Most states and municipal agencies also have ongoing in-service training to keep officers refreshed in the same areas considered vital to the law enforcement mission to protect and serve.

All this training is what is considered the critical tasks of a law enforcement officer. There is, however, one task missing in the law enforcement profession as a whole. That is the understanding of interpersonal communications and officer survival, especially the non-verbal and verbal cues that relate to danger in a law enforcement encounter.

We spend countless hours training our criminal investigators in how to read body language (kinesics) to detect deception and illicit admissions and confessions out of criminals. History and experience has shown that this study of communication in the area of non-verbal and verbal that relate to anxiety and deception is just as if not more critical to the law enforcement officer on the street as it is to the investigator in the interrogation room.

Example: On a cool, clear November night an officer is on routine street patrol in a small town. The officer has made several stops and issued garden-variety citations; no arrests for operating under the influence until he clocks a small Nissan pick-up truck at 70 miles per hour in a 55 mile an hour zone. The driver takes a bit longer than normal to pull over once the officer 'lights him up', which sets off a small bell in the officer's mind. However, thinking the motorist was simply seeking a safe place to pull over; the officer gives it little thought. Once stopped, the motorist exits the Nissan, and the officer asks for his driver's license. However, the motorist cannot find his license despite much fumbling with his wallet. His two small sons are also in the Nissan, and finally one of them pokes his head out the window and informs his father that mom (for whatever reason) has the license. So, the officer using the subject's social security number calls dispatch which subsequently informs him there are no 'warrants' or 'warrants' out for the subject. The officer transmits to dispatch in front of the subject and the return information from the dispatcher also is broadcast in front of the subject. The officer later says that had there been any negative information on the subject, his dispatcher would have told him to 'clear for traffic', and he would have moved to a location away from the subject. In addition to the subject fumbling, the officer has detected alcohol on his breath. The subject says he had nothing to drink--other than two or three beers earlier in the night. The officer makes the decision to give the subject a 'breath test, and the test indicates that the subject has a point-12 to point-13 blood alcohol content; legal limit is point-08. The officer decides to arrest the subject and goes back to his cruiser to request back-up, but in the transmission only requests that back-up 'ease on over'. His nearest back-up is some six miles distant.

As the officer reads the subject his implied consent rights, the subject obviously (in the camcorder tape) begins to 'turn off' the officer. The subject becomes very agitated and (paraphrasing) tells the officer that if he's arrested he'll lose his job and he won't be able to pay support for his two sons. He reiterates that several times, but the officer has already committed to the arrest. The subject begins to walk away from the officer, and the officer, surprised, grabs the subject by the shirt collar. The subject and officer nose-to-nose now; the subject tells the officer not to touch his "goddamned shirt" --- "don't touch me..." --- etcetera. The officer is just as immovable: "Mr. Anybody, I'm not going to let you go back to that car..." The officer lets go of the subject and is explaining himself to the subject. The subject is standing there with his hands on his hips, looking away from the officer. As the subject and officer are exchanging words, the subject is rolling his shirt sleeves up and then blades his body away from the officer. Suddenly, within a fraction of a second of the subject stepping back positioning his body, the subject throws a tremendous right hook at the officers left jaw knocking the policeman unconscious, to the ground. The subject then leaps onto the officer's prone figure and inflicts a terrible beating (later determined to be 33 blows). The officer is unconscious for most of the beating as the subject is exclaiming: "I tried to tell you...I tried to tell you...I tried to tell you..."

Then, by a seeming miracle, a passing truck driver and his wife see this drama unfolding and stop by to render aid. The truck driver has a large Mag light and proceeds to strike the subject over the head as hard as he can using both hands. The subject stops beating the officer at this point and rolls over to his left side. The truck driver's wife has taken control of the subject's two young sons, who have both leaped out of the truck begging their father to stop beating the officer.

The officer regains consciousness just as the subject rolls over to his left side and although badly beaten and losing strength is somehow able to handcuff the subject and exclaim "10-17" (urgent call for help) into his shoulder radio. During the beating, eyewitnesses will later testify, the subject furiously tried to wrestle the officer's gun from its holster, but apparently due to a double thumb safety lock was unable to get to the weapon. The officer is spitting out blood and teeth and is obviously losing strength quickly as back-up arrives and takes control of the subject. The subject is non-cooperative, and just as the back-up officer reaches down to pick the subject up, the handcuffs open. The back-up officer is obliged to use spray on the subject, before he can try to cuff the subject again. Still, though, as the officer is attempting to put on the same cuffs they give way and open a second time. The pepper spray contains the subject, however, and finally the officer uses a pair of his own handcuffs to control him.

Analysis

There is a lot going on in this set of circumstances. It is already known that these types of law enforcement encounters are dynamic and rapidly changing events. Also it must be noted that these encounters are analyzed and judged by the totality of the circumstances. However for this case study let's focus on the highlighted area above, step by step, which illustrates the non-verbal cues that can be read as signs of anxiety or danger signs.

1. Walking away:
 - This is read as a sign of contempt. Contempt for your authority and a sign that the subject is done listening to you.
 - His anxiety level is high and he wants to leave.
 - He is ignoring you.
2. Hands on hips:
 - Known as the confrontational gesture.
 - This is another sign of ignoring you and another sign the subject's anxiety level is high.
3. Looking away:
 - Again ignoring you. He is done with whatever you have to say.
 - Possibly looking for witnesses, escape routes, preparing to fight or run.
4. Rolling shirt sleeves up:
 - A rather obvious sign of high stress and anxiety.
 - Getting ready to fight.
5. Blades his body away (fighting stance):
 - He is taking a fighting stance and is more than likely about to assault you.
 - It could be a push, a pull, or a punch.
6. The subject becomes very agitated and (paraphrasing) tells the officer that if he's arrested he'll lose his job and he won't be able to pay support for his two sons:
 - This is verbal communication that should send a non-verbal message that things have taken a turn for the worse.
 - Most people do not want their children involved in the interaction between themselves and law enforcement.
 - This subject is dragging his children right smack into the middle of this problem.
 - This is a tell-tale sign of high agitation and anxiety.

This example and these non-verbal communication signs listed above are just a few of the many signs that could be construed as dangerous or indicate a person in high anxiety. When the subject is in this state it is possible for an officer to be attacked, as in this case, or the subject may take flight. No one sign alone means much, but clusters of these non-verbal cues are critical to an officer and his survival on the street. Here is a list of some more non-verbal signs that fit into these criteria. This list is compiled by former Illinois Police Chief Steve Rhoads, who is a three-time medal of valor winner with the unfortunate experience of being in four gun battles. Rhoads takes his program for 'Detecting Danger' on the road both nationally and internationally. The program is cored around two main elements:

1. What do officers need to learn about themselves, to lessen the likelihood of danger?
2. What do officers need to know about subjects that could lessen danger?
 - Head angle indicates fight or flight
 - A dropped chin means fight
 - A raised chin means flight
 - Confirming gesture of fight is a fixed stare
 - If flight, look for darting eyes
 - Watch area around neck for possible attack (upper body muscles)
 - "Happy feet" could be a strong indicator of flight
 - When an officer sees a threat potential, call subject's attention to it
 - May get him to reconsider threatening action
 - Short, choppy gestures/verbal communication, the threat is real
 - Hands inward/anger inward; hands outward/anger outward
 - Palms in mad at himself
 - Palms out mad at you
 - Watch deadly hands; drying of hands, hands stroking to get dry for attack
 - Multiple gestures and deadly gaze mean likely trouble
 - Knuckle-popping, loosening of fingers, flexing of fingers mean likely trouble
 - Watch setting of hands

- Confrontation gesture: hands on hips, elbows outward
- Remember: What behavior should you expect in a given situation?
- Does the behavior make sense?
- The face can be a barometer of a subject's intentions
- Raised eyebrows
- Red face
- Underneath eyes opposite rest of skin surface
- Fixed, dilated stare
- Real danger may not be coming from loudest mouth
- Watch the one not talking
- Mouth tense, lips down at corners
- Mouth breathing indication of nervousness, anger
- Flared nostrils, setting of jaw indication of nervousness, anger
- Eyes wider during periods of intense emotion
- Loudest mouth may not be able to take physical action (No adrenaline or oxygen getting into muscle tissues; all being burned elsewhere)

Solution

The solution is to train law enforcement officers in the art of detecting danger signs by reading body language and understanding its meaning. The instruction and demonstrations of the signs is the easy part. You see the signs in every situation you are in that goes bad as a law enforcement officer. The good news is that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement contacts end in a civil manner. Most people do what law enforcement asks them to do. The statistics according to the FBI are 97% of police contacts end civilly without any force being used, about 10% of the remaining 3% end in assault situations. The hard part is to get law enforcement to understand the importance of knowing these signs and how they relate to their survival.

Enter The Boyd Cycle

So what do we do? How do we get law enforcement officers to read the signs so they can safely and legally defend themselves on the street? The answer in my mind is obvious. The Boyd Cycle! The Boyd Cycle, otherwise known as the O-O-D-A loop, is a decision making cycle developed by Col. John Boyd U.S.A.F. He developed the cycle over the skies of Korea in the mid 1950's, while flying combat missions. He determined that conflict was timed, competitive Observation, Orientation, Decision and Action Cycles. The essence for Boyd was human perception, not weapons or circumstances. He once said, "Machines don't fight wars. Terrain doesn't fight wars. Humans fight wars. You must get into the minds of humans. That's where the battles are won." The O-O-D-A loop put in simple terms is as follows:

Observe

- Sensing yourself and the world around you.

Orientation

- Is the complex set of filters of genetic heritage, cultural predisposition, personal experience, and knowledge.
- Mental image or snapshot of the situation.
- Is what's happening good or bad?

Decision

- The review of alternative courses of action and the selection of preferred course as a hypothesis to be tested.
- Takes into account all the factors present at the time of orientation.

Action

- The testing of the decision selected by implementation.
- You do it!
- "Decisions without actions are pointless." Actions without decisions are reckless

According to Col. Boyd the key here is to understand that walking through this process is critical to winning conflict. The Boyd Cycle and how it relates to non-verbal communications is simply stated as situational awareness. Being aware of the signs of danger, looking for them with attention to detail, and most importantly once you see the signs, orienting yourself to the signs, understanding what they mean to you as a law enforcement officer. According to Boyd the orientation phase is the most critical. You must make observations, but more importantly you must understand (orient) what your observations mean. What is what you're seeing telling you? Then based on this, make decisions and finally take action based on the O-O-D-A cycle. The notion of the loop, the constant repetition of the O-O-D-A cycle, is the essential connection that is repeated again and again. Because our actions will have changed the situation, the cycle begins anew and repeats itself throughout the tactical situation.

In the above scenario the importance of the Boyd Cycle and its relationship to survival is obvious. The officer in the scenario is complacent and not expecting anything other than the so-called routine stop. We have all been there. As the situation unfolds the subtle and not so subtle signs are obvious and therefore controllable. However they were not picked up on by the officer. This allows the subject to take the initiative and launch a vicious assault on the officer. In my opinion this lack of awareness is found in most incidents where officers are assaulted or killed in the line of duty. The Boyd Cycle equals situational awareness and situational awareness gives us the edge we in law enforcement need. The Boyd cycle must be practiced on every call, every call and proactive response law enforcement officers handle.

The Boyd cycle and its importance to law enforcement in the realm of officer survival and winning conflicts, whether through the use of verbal persuasion or hands on defensive tactics or deadly force, are obvious. Its importance to the observation (reading) and orientation (understanding) of body language or non-verbal communications is critical to the decisions and actions taken by law enforcement. Not only so they may justify these decisions legally, but also they may live to go home at the end of their shifts. That is the number one rule in law enforcement.

Training

The critical aspect of getting law enforcement officers in the right mind set so they can utilize the skills necessary to read, interpret and make appropriate decisions based on interpersonal communications is training. The development of these skills is critical to survival of law enforcement officers on the street, survival, both in the context of living and dying, and survival in the context of the legalities of the circumstances. Training is the way to get this done, but how do we train? We must train first in the basic fundamentals of interpersonal communications, the dynamics of conflict and how we process the information as in the Boyd Cycle. The training tools used in the development of the basics are classroom environment and tactical decision games or written scenarios where the officer must give a written response with a how and why he handled the situation the way he did. The responses are reviewed and discussed amongst members of the law enforcement agency. They identify ideas of how the circumstances were handled, with both the positive and negative aspects being openly explored. This tactical decision game is an outstanding way of developing the decision making cycle and developing the working knowledge of non-verbal communications.

Once the basics are understood we move on to interactive training, which involves role playing with a real, living, breathing and thinking opposing force. Train as you will fight as the military says. This type of training is critical in the development of the above skills. It puts the student into simulated stresses of actual situations and they learn to react appropriately to the threats perceived. This observation, orientation, decision and action cycle is tested in the simulated environment and reinforced through the repetitive interactive training.

The final way to reinforce and continue the training of our officers in the above disciplines of interpersonal communications, specifically non-verbal communications and its importance to officer survival, as well as the decision making Boyd Cycle, is the use of after action reviews. There is no better way to reinforce lessons learned than to sit down and talk about an

incident that actually took place. To conduct the after action review process correctly, candor and honest feedback are imperative. The officers have to understand that it is a tool for training and not a tool to be used against them in a disciplinary action.

The after action review process is a must if we are to seriously move forward in the development of our tactics on the street. Using the incident above, where the officer was assaulted, try to see yourself as the officer involved sitting down and discussing the incident with fellow officers. Break the incident down step by step honestly. Picture the circumstances unfolding in front of you. After you have critiqued yourself in an after action review and have discussed all the lessons learned, I guarantee you will not handle the situation the same way the next time. You should pick up on the signs of danger and make faster decisions based on what you see and take the initiative necessary to put you in control of that situation.

Conclusion

Sun Tzu wrote The Art of War 2,500 hundred years ago. A quote from that book is as follows:

"If you know yourself and know your enemy in a hundred battles you will not be in peril, If you know yourself and not your enemy for every battle won you will suffer a defeat, If you know neither yourself nor your enemy in every battle you will be in peril."

The meaning of this quote by Sun Tzu is obvious as to how it relates to interpersonal communications and decision making in the law enforcement profession. It does not, in my estimation, need to be explained.

The importance of understanding interpersonal communication and its relationship to proper decision-making and officer survival is obvious. If you learn to read the situation and understand that non-verbal communication is somewhere between 65% and 80% percent of the total communication process, you'll see that it is imperative that law enforcement officers must understand this process. The officers have to be able to read the signs of anxiety and danger if they truly want to win in hostile encounters. Predicting behavior is something that cannot be done 100% of the time; if it could we probably would not need the law enforcement profession. The system has to move forward and develop individual officer's skills in the art of reading non-verbal communication and decision-making. Training in this discipline and mastering the skills of reading people is a continuous process that is difficult, but the attempt must be made if we want to lower the number of names being placed on the law enforcement memorial each year.

*Fred Leland is a lieutenant with the Walpole, Massachusetts, Police Department. He joined the department in 1987 and is currently the Patrol Commander. He is also an instructor for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council and specializes in use of force, firearms and officer survival issues.



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The last item in this newsmagazine is a poem by Maya Angelou, I hope you enjoy it. If you have inspirational poetry, articles of interest or just news you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to submit them for consideration. They will appear in our magazine for the benefit of all our readers. Thank you for your interest and support. Also, please print a copy of this newsmagazine to share with your colleagues and families and friends. Thank you, Deborah Gulley, TopCops on the Internet <http://www.topcops.com>

Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies
I'm not cute or built to suit a model's
fashion size
But when I start to tell them
They think I'm telling lies.

I say
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips
The stride of my steps
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please
And to a man
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees
Then they swarm around me
A hive of honey bees.

I say
It's the fire in my eyes
And the flash of my teeth
The swing of my waist
And the Joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.

I say
It's in the arch of my back
The sun of my smile
The ride of my breasts
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.

I say
It's in the click of my heels
The bend of my hair
The palm of my hand
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman
That's me.

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THE END FOR NOW!