R.U.D.E. or How We Get in Trouble
Part IV: The Letter E: Errors in Judgment

By: Joseph Andalina

In our last installment of R.U.D.E., I saved the best topic for last. But when you think about it, I couldn't start with the letter E, or some of you would think I was dyslexic and... focus, Joe, focus.

Policing in its most basic form is judgment. Your judgment is your primary responsibility. That and discretion. They are interchangeable. From the way you talk to people on all levels, your wit, sarcasm, your authoritative performance on felony stops, patient response in domestic situations, the giving of directions, articulate testimony, traffic stops, and quietly reading to children in libraries is all a matter of judgment. How you talk is how you judge your audience, and most importantly, how your audience judges you. What you do in any particular event, your discretion is directly related to how you judge that issue as to what needs to be done. Misjudge and you have an error. And that, my friends, is a big way that we get in the doghouse or the big house, or even lose our house.

For example, the use of your weapon (firearm, taser, baton, asp, etc.) is a preordained matter of judgment. The extent of force, if any, is a matter of how you determine what is necessary by the “Use of Force Continuum.” Likewise, as we’ve seen in the earlier R.U.D.E. issues, how we drive, who we stop, and who we chase are sometimes judgment calls. And as noted, we’ve discussed a few scenarios on how you can buy a day or many days and sometimes even lose your job if your judgment in these issues goes askew.

Despite the fact that the brass or purveyors of evil (politicians) can exacerbate a minor error in judgment into a full-blown police and fire or merit board hearing, your actions will also be second-guessed and open to criticism by the press and public.

So while the major stuff to control is the way you talk, the use of force, and your driving decisions there are a lot of other ways that your judgment or lack thereof can jam you up for a date with IAD.

So what is an error in judgment? Well, here’s some bad behavior that cops have allegedly performed. You make the call!

- Florida officer accused of robbing drivers on traffic stops. (Those Disney World tickets are getting expensive.)
- New Zealand officer counseled for off duty work as a prostitute. (If not strictly prohibited in your contract for secondary employment, we may have a grievance here. Gives new meaning to the term moonlighting, doesn’t it?)
- Trooper sued after ordering couple to strip and urinate on the ground. (What training academy suggested this procedure in lieu of writing a ticket?)
- Florida deputy fired for MySpace posting: In uniform he discusses, among other things, getting drunk and his weakness...
Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Tom Ross

Happy Spring! Winter started out OK but it slipped into an unusual blast of Chicago surrounding us with cold, damp and wet and snow days. In the end, it goes down as a typical Chicago winter. But now we are into spring, looking forward to summer and hopefully some time off with family and friends to kick back and enjoy some leisure time. As I write this column, we have just come through the VT incident with the loss of so many lives. I for one still wonder why we allow the sale of such powerful weapons? Why it is so easy to arm oneself? And now the “what ifs” that will go on until we experience another incident. In the midst of all these horrific incidents, it could be easy to roll down into a depression of sorts that the world as we know it is coming apart. One could sense a loss of HOPE. I have included another essay by the famous “author unknown.” It speaks to holding onto HOPE, TRUST and LOVE. It speaks to me in these troubled days; I hope you find solace in these thoughts.

Now, as usual at this time of year, my kindly reminder—every May we are invited to pause and attend one of the many Police Memorials taking place on a national, state and local level. Taking time to remember our fallen heroes at these memorials is one way to show these families that we do care, we do remember, and we are dedicated within our power to stopping it from happening again to another Law Enforcement officer and their family. I encourage you to take time to tell your children WHY we do these memorials. Better yet, take time from the busy life to attend a Police Memorial or War Memorial with your families. Then look around and see for yourself the faces of the many who remember their comrades, their friends, their loved ones.

Here in Bolingbrook on May 5th we celebrated a Blue Mass at the local Catholic Church for all First Responders sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus—a Catholic fraternal organization. Knights are encouraged to honor police, fire, law enforcement and emergency medical personnel by sponsoring Blue Masses in their communities. These services are open to all first responders and their families. God Bless and Peace to all—and BE SAFE OUT THERE!!

Quiet Thoughts

Hold on to faith; it is the source of believing that all things are possible. It is the fiber and strength of a confident soul.

Hold on to hope; it banishes doubt and enables attitudes to be positive and cheerful.

Hold on to trust; it is at the core of fruitful relationships that are secure and content.

Hold on to love; it is life’s greatest gift of all, for it shares, cares, and gives meaning to life.

Hold on to family and friends; they are the most important people in your life, and they make the world a better place. They are your roots and the beginnings that you grew from; they are the vine that has grown through time to nourish you, help you on your way, and always remain close by.

Hold on to your dreams; achieve them diligently and honestly. Never take the easy way or surrender to deceit. Remember others on your way, and take time to care for their needs. Enjoy the beauty around you. Have the courage to see things differently and clearly. Make the world a better place one day at a time, and don’t let go of the important things that give meaning to your life.
Chief’s Follies

By: Joseph Andalina

#1 Hello Schaumburg... Hello FUBAR

Not the cops, mind you. Most of those fine fellows and ladies possess the patience and dedication of a saint. They have to, with the DOPe and Baby Huey running the show over there. Since I don’t work in Schaumburg, I am unsure who is the DOPe and who is Baby Huey, but we get the feeling they are not in patrol and probably in upper management. From what I hear, they may hang out, occupy, or scurry in and out of the Chief’s office.

Schaumburg is a fine police department, but the leadership, and I mean the high ranking fellows and some politicians, seem to have a grand dislike for their officers.

Grievances filed, arbitrated, and discipline is at an all time high in our suburb to the north. There is such an effort to mess with cops by the upper echelon that it is a wonder that our fellow officers up yonder have any morale whatsoever.

It’s so bad there that a newsletter has been circulating in the unfriendly confines of SPD for some time now. It’s called simply “The FUBAR.” I’m assuming that you all know that FUBAR means “f**d up beyond all recognition.” It’s one or two pages with an occasional advice column. And you guessed it—it concerns the brilliance of the big boys, not the lowly grunts and supervisors but those few useless humans who stopped being, caring, or remembering what it was like to be a cop a long time ago.

Below are a couple of short snippets, registering a lot of employee angst over the evil stuff they feel is going on. From the FUBAR newsletter:

It didn’t take long. We’ve entered the “Era from Hell.” SPD’s own Dark Ages. We’re being led by an Axis of Evil” and Der Führer (aka der DOPe) has finally lost his mind with the sudden chest puffing and biceps flexing (if you can call those biceps). It looks like he’s had a sudden surge of testosterone and it’s clear he doesn’t know what to do with it. (We’ll lay off the ex-wife jokes here.) He thinks he’s showing all that he’s the boss and we’ve been doing things the wrong way for years and now it’s time to get it right. The fact is there isn’t an ounce of respect for him, his position, or his “Axis of Evil.” He has a specialty for sinking an organization and its employees. They take the best people they have and create a climate that forces people to buy backwards counting clocks to count down the days to retirement. Motivated, talented employees who would get out now if they could. Why can’t the village fathers (and mothers) see this? Probably because it’s easier to look the other way than to try to raise a sinking ship.

The next news alert concerns an officer who was speeding to a scene to help out an officer in major trouble, who almost took a bullet while arresting an individual in a drug-related incident.

The following is an excerpt from FUBAR:

Local Board Elections

Congratulations to all of the officers who have been recently elected to their local boards.

Bolingbrook
John Ward    President
John Hild    Vice President
Rob Sudd    Treasurer
Matt Kovacek    Secretary

Naperville Sergeants
Lee Martin    President
Steve Schindlebeck    Vice president
Mark Ksiazek    Sec/Treas
Chris Maynord    Steward
Bill Davis    Steward
Al Trotsky    Steward

Streamwood
Hank Bradtke
Clyde Hayden
Dave Papay
Ryan Ruthenberg

University of Illinois at Chicago
Tim Spangler    President
Zyad Hasan    Vice president
David Cardwell    Secretary
Warren Faulkner    Treasurer

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At press time, we were still waiting to hear if any of our MAP sponsored bills were scheduled to pass in the House and Senate.

Our first legislative initiative is SB1301, the emergency dispatch binding arbitration bill granting collective bargaining rights for police and fire dispatch units. This bill had been stalled due to the opposition of AFSCME and the acquiescence of other unions. We are trying to move this bill forward while waiting for support from other possible proponents to this bill.

MAP and other dispatch supporters were scheduled to testify in committee, late in this session in an effort to get this bill off the ground. MAP has sent the below letter to our members, encouraging them to write, call, or e-mail their state representatives and senators in the hope that they would support this bill.

To: All MAP Dispatch/Communications Chapters

As you all know, MAP has been pushing this introduced legislation on providing binding arbitration for emergency dispatch personnel. Currently, we are continuing negotiations on the language contained in the bill.

At press time, as was the case last year, our primary opponents are AFSCME and the AFL-CIO. They are once again trying to kill this bill. In whatever logic that they are applying here, they do not want you, the emergency dispatch employee and unit, to have binding arbitration when you have an impasse in your contract negotiations. Instead of seeking the assistance of an independent third party to resolve the impasse as sworn police and fire employees have, they would rather you participate in a job action, or in fact strike to resolve impasse.

It is our opinion that in smaller units like dispatch, binding arbitration would be more beneficial to you by not putting your careers and jobs on the line. Most dispatch units are relatively small. The threat of discipline and/or termination would weigh heavily upon you as an individual or as a group; in fact, we believe it actually discourages these groups from any type of job action.

Therefore, we ask that in an effort to convince our legislators that you, the dispatch employee, truly wishes to utilize the binding arbitration alternative, you need to contact both your representative in the House and your state Senator.

If we do not convince them that this is both a benefit that you desire and need, the bill will languish and AFSCME will kill the bill again. To make this as simple as possible, we are asking you to send the attached letter to the House representatives and your state Senator in the district where you reside.

We also ask that you send the same letter to your local and state representatives in the District where you also work. If you do not know who your House representative or state Senator are, you can get the information on the internet.

1. Go to www.ilga.gov
2. Under additional resources, click on legislator lookup
3. Under search by home address, put in your home address
4. A page providing all of your state and federal elected officials for your district will come up.
5. Print out that information if needed.
6. Mail a copy of the attached letter to your House of Representative official and your state Senator, printing his or her name and title, as well as the date.
7. Repeat for the reps where you are an employee.
8. Mail or fax a copy of the letter you sent to the MAP office with your printed name and address on it. MAP will provide these copies to the Senators who are sponsoring this bill.

You must act on this immediately. Our legislators, when they return from spring break, will be reviewing the language and continuing to negotiate our position. We need to let them know right now that we want their support.

The letter you can write or e-mail your representative or senator can be found on our web site, www.mapunion.org, under Breaking News.

SB810

As regards the above bill, The Cook County Department of Corrections heart attack and stroke initiative providing on-duty pension benefits for officers who suffer from these maladies while on-duty is still pending. Testimony by MAP Board member Andrew Diakoumis, was given in late March on this issue and further appearances before various committees were scheduled for mid-May.

Again, results at press time were not available. Full updates on these issues will appear on our website in late June.
Chief’s Follies

Stranger than Fiction

Congratulations to the officer who put away a local crack head. He almost took a bullet for his trouble and the AXIS showed their appreciation by offering him a 12-day unpaid vacation. They handed out another vacation to an officer that helped (after giving him an award) but withdrew it when they figured out someone would have stepped in and set them straight. In fact, der DOPe handed out three awards to officers that helped take control of the guy who was trying to take away a gun and fired off two rounds in the process. He took away some of his luster by giving the exact same award to a civilian member of the geek squad for putting together a computer program. This guy is nuttier than a squirrel turd.

These incidents where cops are getting whacked by the brass are about as pathetic as they come. We have defended officers who are speeding in the performance of their jobs and will continue to do so. Can you believe this? All I can say to our brother and sister officers in Schaumburg is keep fighting the good fight. MAP will keep it up on our end until we win.

#2. A letter to the FUBAR editor.

Dear FUBAR,

I've only been working here for a short amount of time but I've noticed that just about everyone who works here spends the day covering their ass and just going through the motions. This includes the supervisors. Didn't these other people have to take an oath to uphold the law when they were hired? I can't understand why everyone is so reluctant to go out and catch a bad guy.

Still doing the job

Dear Still,

We're glad to hear you're still inspired. You must still be riding with an FTO. We hope you'll keep up the good work but the odds are you won't. You see, many of the officers you're disappointed with were once like you...idealistic, committed, and enthusiastic. Over time they either made some well intentioned honest mistakes or were victims of incompetent internal investigations and were turned into “Cover your ass zombies” by our Command Staff. It's so much easier for the big bosses to hold police officers up to incredibly unrealistic standards (that they themselves never lived up to) and abandon officers who make honest mistakes. Actually, the staff here at FUBAR think our Command Staff prefers for none of us to do any real police work. Just show up for work on time, keep your mouth shut, handle your calls, and do absolutely nothing else. You will collect your paycheck and pension. If you don't do anything, you won't get into trouble and the DOPe, Chief Baby Huey, and Chief Dumbo won't get those annoying phone calls from the village hall that they are always bitching about. If you're good enough at “just going through the motions” you may even get promoted and get a job with CALEA.

Better still, you may get to double dip with the DOPe, Bob, and Terry. Being a zombie isn't all bad. If after this you want to do police work, I suggest you consider joining a real police department.

Editor's note: You just gotta love people with a sense of humor, no matter who the author is. When this stuff starts popping out at PDs, (and I've seen it before), a real sense of hopelessness pervades the entire PD.

Not only is morale bad, but the officers begin to care less because it becomes obvious that the leadership does not care for them. If the Cubs could jettison Dusty, maybe the politicians should look into the removal of at least two cartoon characters in Schaumburg before someone actually frames Roger Rabbit.

Now, your editor of the MAP Rap Sheet hears that the brass in Schaumburg is conducting secret squirrel investigations in an attempt to find out the author and distributor of the FUBAR. Yeah, that's good. Instead of fixing the problems, just go after the dissenters. Good thinking from the clowns at Bozo's Circus.

#3 How to clean your AR-15: or at least get the help of a patrolman.

Last fall, a Prospect Heights deputy chief was to take part in a mandatory class to qualify for AR-15 shooting. Part of their qualification was a safety class to be held for all participants before actually shooting.

Officers reported at 7am for the class, then went out to shoot and returned afterwards to disassemble and clean their
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The Letter E: Errors in Judgment

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for “big boobies.” (Some things are better kept to yourself and your kinky significant other.)

• Michigan officer accidentally shoots fellow officer while telling a joke. (I sure hope his joke was really funny.)

• Portland, OR officer requests that a female stopped for a DUI show him her panties and she would be allowed to leave. (Take away his Victoria Secret catalog.)

• Coppers all over sending e-mails to everyone over police computers or networks. (This is a myth—a myth—that any e-mails are private.)

• Michigan officer accused of smoking weed in his cruiser…or any other inane use of an illegal drug. (This is Car 54: Where am I?)

• Cops accused of thumping an offender one too many times. (Whoa, people, are you listening? Everybody has a camera nowadays.)

• Cops accused of burglary and extortion while on duty, bribery, or some other such form of corruption. (They are on an express train going straight to hell.)

Just to be clear here, if you’re committing a crime while a cop: robbery, rape, murder, burglary or other forcible felonies, you’ll get no sympathy from me. That is not an error in judgment. There is a place for people like that—it’s called jail.

Ditto with the dope. It’s not okay to smoke “a little” weed if you work in a police department or correctional facility. Recreational drug use is not a part of your job description. It is not okay behavior. So you can relax and be one with the universe is no excuse. Cops who enter the realm of George Carlin or Timothy Leary and have the gall to arrest people for drug use are worse than hypocrites. Have some integrity and get out of police work. Drug yourself up as much as you want, but get out of the PD. Same goes for the civilians who believe it’s ok to work in law enforcement among cops all day and then enjoy their own private “smoke-outs” later. I repeat: it is not okay.

Again, this and other criminal activities are not errors in judgment. Thankfully this is not even a common problem. The incidents are rare. I’ve only seen a handful in 26 years doing this union gig and most of these losers are found out and canned. Good riddance. Whether you’re a sworn officer or civilian, can PD employees make a mistake and take a “toke” off duty? I guess so, but how do you live with yourself? Go away, please.

Other stuff is not so black and white. How about the MySpace guy? Kids, teachers, and now cops with insane MySpace blogging. It’s okay to like “big boobies,” but what are you, 13-years old? Same with your adolescent blogging about being inebriated—with pictures! Respect and pride should mean something. This is a major error in judgment; the representation this officer was giving and others like him is just bad, bad, bad. What is it with some people who have to put their whole life on the internet? Error in judgment or just plain stupid? Or are they both the same thing? If it isn’t criminal, it’s certainly an error in judgment. You can be saved but discipline is galloping quickly towards you.

Screwing around with a loaded gun in the PD, joking or not, is a far stretch to call an error in judgment, but it happens. I’ve seen a few of those, too—usually at the range while cleaning your piece. You’re not paying attention and the gun goes off. Not good, fellas, not good. You breathe a big sigh of relief when you get off the floor and wipe yourself, realizing that no one got shot. So we’ll call it an error in judgment. Someone gets hit and it’s a whole different ball game. Reckless conduct or involuntary manslaughter now becomes part of your resume.

How about the New Zealand cop “moonlighting” as a prostitute? Well, New Zealand made prostitution legal in 2003. They are called “sex workers” in the “Valley of the Sheep.” The cop was having financial difficulties and said she could make up to $300 on a busy night. Sort of makes you look at your partner a little differently now, doesn’t it?

So this is an error in judgment because, hahahaha, just like I said, she did not submit an application to her department for secondary employment. She was counseled however, and now we can all sleep better. (Especially the people she works with at her second job.) Errors in judgment and crime can sometimes make strange bedfellows. Excuse the pun here. When you look at all the facts, the judgment and discretion can sure make some queer turns. Oops, there I go again.

The sex in squad cars, however, whether consensual or not, the sticking-up of...
Chief’s Follies

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weapons.

The DC who obviously must be well- schooled in the operation of this rifle did not attend the safety class and showed up around 1pm to shoot. He qualified, which was good news as most chiefs probably don’t know the difference between an AR-15 and an ATV.

The DC then went back to the classroom to clean his rifle and yes, you guessed it, the rifle went BANG when he pulled the trigger. During the bullet’s journey in the classroom, it hit a few things but fortunately, nothing living. However, a couple of officers were hit by debris, resulting in no injuries but a lasting memory of how it feels to fall under “friendly fire.”

To the DC’s credit, he recommended a three-day suspension for himself, but the chief, in his benevolence, thought one was enough. But if the DC had attended the mandatory safety class, he might have remembered these words: “Make sure the weapon is clear with the slide locked back.” But then again, maybe he wouldn’t have. BANG!

Do you think a patrolman would be afforded the same benevolence?

#4 Waaaahhhh

We hear at MAP that the chief in McCook has taken umbrage over his inclusion in the last issue of the Chief’s Follies. You know, the one where he told his coppers he wanted newspapers delivered to his desk on certain days, etc.

Well, apparently he ordered an officer to remove all MAP Rap Sheets from officers’ mailboxes. Like that’s going to stop them from reading it or finding our fine publication in their city.

All I can say is.. Do you want some cheese with that whine, Chief? What a baby!

#5 Make the bad man go away

A police chief, Charles Childers, was recently arrested in Landis, North Carolina, for soliciting sexual activity and distributing child pornography online.

He engaged in these acts in Michigan and North Carolina, with law enforcement agents who he believed to be a 14-year-old girl over the Internet. The chief reportedly did an obscene thing with his wee-pee on a web camera and asked the girl (agent) to mail her panties to the Landis Police Department’s post office! Unreal, isn’t it? Truly one of our finest.

This fine, noble, chief also transmitted video files of underage people engaged in sexual activity. He used not only his home computer, but the police department’s computer also to participate in this perverted activity. The world is truly going to hell.

We’ve had some other stuff and more Andy in Wonderland, but it will have to wait until next time. Ran out of room again! But be patient, we will be returning to the Land of Oz very soon.

Majority petitions and Elections

Streamwood
MAP 45-0

South Elgin Sergeants
MAP 6-0

Burr Ridge Sergeants and Corporals
(after administrative hearing and appeals for the sergeants before the ILRB.)
MAP 7-0

Park City
MAP 6-0

Morton Grove Sergeants
MAP 6-0

DOC DCSI Deputy Chiefs
MAP 15-0

MAP WINS ALL!
New Member News/Promotions

Addison
Daniel Alaimo
Carl Bauer
Vincent Ciancio
Justin Gist
Doug Kucik
Kevin Kuechler
Stephen Oskroba
Doug Prafke
Hugo Rivera

Algonquin Dispatch
Susan Morgan

Bartlett
Amy Jenkins
Todd Morin
John Sheahan

Bolingbrook
Jason Mitchem
Laura Young

Carpentersville Civilians
Marcus Clark

Channahon
Marc Aguina
Frank Maslanka

Cook Co Dept of Corrections
Ricardo Acevedo Jr
Brian Ashe
Michael Boyle
Daniel Buechele
James Chausse
Guy Desimone
Michael Ernst
James Fair Jr.
Theodore Gifford
Jerome Gultney
Daniel Kielminski
Alonzo King
Tenille Miller
Ivan Muniz
Tyrone Nelson
Vincent Norton
William Pellegrini
Andrew Price
Wilson Reyes
Ricardo Roman
Edward Schuch
Matthew Shields
Carl Singletary
Sabra Smith

DeKalb County
David Aranda
Mary Johannsmeier
Patrick Lozeau
Jason Personette
Victor Villanueva

DesPlaines
Thomas Boniak
Ryan Borre
Andres Contreras
Brian Hart
Michael Oppegard
Andrew Sraga

Elk Grove Village
Brandon Bos

Grundy Co
Tonya Peel
Jacqueline Sparrow

Hickory Hills
John Boehning

Hoffman Estates
Jason Currie
John McIntosh
Bryan Savage

Huntley
Justin Harper
Nora Kruis
David Sander

ISTHA
Drew Canavan
Brian Czak

ISTHA Call-takers
Cynthia Bogan

Lake Forest
Benjamin Grum
Marne Nagel

Lake in the Hills
William Berens

Lake in the Hills CSO
Mary Mathiasen

Lisle
Jeremiah Arnold
Eric Peppers

Mt Prospect
Angelo Anzalone
Lisa McEwen
Jeffrey Taylor

Oak Lawn
Matthew Atkinson
Anthony Capron
Brian Carlson
Bonnie Huff
Scott Kirk
Nicholas Kumke
Michael Lupa
Thomas Nelson
Nicholas Richter
Timothy Shanahan
Michael Sikorski
Charles Zyllius Jr

Plainfield
Adam Kalar
Brett Keag
Ryan Sester

Romeoville
Ryan Festering

Schaumburg
Rosemary Castro

St Charles
Ryan James
Daniel Kuttner
Jaime Vanfossen

Villa Park
Elizabeth Bobrowski
Kordell Kitching

Warrenville
Thomas Bellinger
Jeffrey Paul

Western Springs
Jaclyn Mroz

Wilmington
Stephen Boe

Retired
Oak Lawn
Charles Schultz
Police and firefighters battled on the ice for charity last March. This was the sixth year the cops have faced off with the firemen in a competitive game of hockey to raise funds for charity. This year’s beneficiary of the $7,000 raised was the Helping from Heaven/The Lexi Kazian Foundation.

Lexi Kazian was born in 2002 and passed away at age 2 from complications resulting from a difficult birth that caused brain damage. The foundation was started by Lexi’s dad to raise awareness and money for special needs kids. If you would like to make a donation or check out the foundation, the web site is www.helpingfromheaven.org.

MAP was again a proud sponsor of this hockey game, which over the years has raised over $50,000 for a variety of charities. As far as the game is concerned, we are happy to report that once again the cops (Guns) beat the fire guys (Hoses) with a score of 8-2.

Our good friend, Jed Whitchurch, (bottom row, fifth from left) originally from the DuPage County Forest Preserve, but now with the Illinois Department of Conservation, led the way with four goals.

Our other good buddy, Ken Simpson (bottom row, with ‘do rag) of Bolingbrook, was somewhere out there “grinding” in the corner. Only kidding, pal. Way to go. You played well (wink, wink).

See you all next year when the boys raise money and awareness for the Juvenile Diabetes Fund.
traffic violators and forcing citizens to make pee-pee on the ground are not errors in judgment. These people make our bad chiefs look good (see any of our Follies in various issues).

Other areas of judgment gone bad: Shooting at your own squad as an officer did in Seattle when someone stole his cruiser with the keys in them. While it certainly could piss you off, is this really the smart thing to do? Yes, it is auto theft at its grandest scale when some stooge steals a police car, but shooting at it and risking hitting everyone but the offender is a big error in judgment.

Look for many days off but it shouldn't be a termination deal. Your squad was stolen, maybe by a real bad person, too. The brass should look at all the facts.

I once read that a copper in Nebraska or a similar country in a far, far away land out west somewhere chased a runaway train. The conductor couldn't get the train to stop. Trains just don't listen anymore. It wouldn't listen to the police officer either and would not pull over. That must have been a real fun time. So after many miles of the train disobeying the police officer, he got out of his police cruiser at a railroad crossing and as the train went by, he unloaded his automatic weapon at it. (No word if Thomas the Train was badly injured or if he is still running from the police). I can buy an error in judgment here, I think. Again, look at the facts.

Here's another; e-mail violations. Takes the place of when in my day your "mic" was keyed open and everyone in every car on your radio band would know what you really thought about the chief, the guys on midnights, or that dispatcher with the "big boobies."

I have told cops a hundred times that all e-mail and computer transmissions are not lost in cyber space. Do not send dirty jokes, (I mean real dirty jokes) dirty cartoons, or other correspondence of a sexual nature to your friends, loved ones, the girl with the "big boobies" or your partner who just got transferred to days. No sex acts, nudity, racial or religious slurs, violent photos, bad language, tell-all diaries, Paris Hilton videos, offers to get together or rumor spreading. You do it once, it's an error in judgment. Do it again, and to quote Desi Arnez, "You got a lot of 'splaining to do, Lucy!"

In general, not checking your businesses and a supervisor finding a burglary in your sector is an error in judgment because you thought "everything looked okay" as you cruised by, shining your flashlight at the building going 50 mph. Shooting someone's dog at a call might be an error in judgment if he resembles Hooch, like in the movie Turner and Hooch. Not so if he looks like the mutt in the “Yo quiero Taco Bell” commercials. Shooting the opossum 13 times in someone's garage because you wanted to impress the damsel in distress in her flimsy teddy is an error in judgment, too. Wait for Animal Control.

Writing a 78-year-old lady a ticket for having a statue of Jesus Christ on her vehicle’s dashboard is an error in judgment. This is true even if it is a real vehicular offense in order to find someone to write a ticket to put on your court log that you know won't show up but ensures you some added court pay. What are you anyway, a heathen?

When it comes to giving testimony, there is a real slippery slope here. Stretching the truth in court is not an error in judgment. It is perjury. Very bad. Testifying like a putz because you were too lazy to review properly, or the dog ate your police report is an error in judgment.

Good, hard police work where you are rousting gangbangers, bad guys, or drunk mayors is GOOD POLICE WORK even if you get beefed. That's our job. Protect and serve. Save humanity.

The hundreds of scenarios that could lead to an error in judgment can not be avoided. They are there, like stars in the sky. From Running your Lip, the Use of Force, the myriad array of ways to screw up quite innocently while driving, as well as all the little rule violations and frustrations that await you, the discretion we have is paramount in doing our jobs.

And no one does it better any place in the world then us. There is a lot of good...
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in us—just a little bad—and a small amount of ugly in the way of policing nowadays. Times change, expectations change, new paradigms evolve and we are caught in the middle. It’s easy to make an error in judgment.

We are criticized unnecessarily by the brass, the chief, the city manager, the mayor, the press, and the bad people. Normally, good people like us because they don’t care for bad people in their neighborhoods. They are understanding that in the heat of the night to protect them, there could be errors in judgment.

This microscopic examination of all that we do can lead us into disarray. But if you act in a reasonable manner and in good faith, your errors in judgment should not overly impact you. Unless, of course, you have a chief that regularly appears in our Follies. He may want to get even and try to whack you. Then, again, you may get a break in your error and bask in the warm fuzzy feeling that your chief has bigger headaches than your screw-up and give you a pass. Let’s hope so. Remember reasonableness in your actions is paramount to avoid allegations of an error in your judgment.

Ah, officer, did you hear what I just said? Officer, do not press that send button—hey, don’t! Oh well, we’ll have to wait and see how that transmission on Angelina Jolie goes.

There you have it. A sometimes tongue-in-cheek and sometimes serious analysis of R.U.D.E. I make no bones about covering all aspects of the activities we engage in while embarked on this wonderfully crazy adventure we call policing. If there are any similarities with real screw ups that have happened to you, these events are purely coincidental. Really? Really.

Just remember most of us are just fine and so are you. Loving and living “la dolce vita” in your ‘hood. Until next time—stay safe.

Thoughts and Prayers

Tom Grant, ex-Bolingbrook Police Reserve, and later Joliet police officer, died last April. I met Tom when he was a reserve officer in Bolingbrook many years ago. Our affliction with all things hockey led Tom, our legal advisor, Jeff Ortinau, and I to spend many evenings together watching our beloved Blackhawks.

Later in his career as a Joliet police officer, he suffered a serious car accident and somewhere along the way he was stricken with multiple sclerosis. His life professionally and personally took a downward spiral as the disease caused more and more loss of his motor skills. He eventually was forced to retire on a pension disability.

His good friend and our chief union counsel, Joe Mazzone, spent a lot of time with Tom trying to assist him as he went from a cane to a walker, and eventually to a wheelchair. He finally found his way to a Cleveland, Ohio, nursing home to be near his elderly mother.

His health continued to deteriorate to the point where he was permanently bed-ridden. Even with that, when I spoke to Tom last year, he was in good spirits, although I must admit, you could barely recognize his voice.

It was a sad way for such a strong, vibrant, and fun-loving guy to spend his final years. As police officers we look for a retirement filled with good health and happiness—something that Tom was completely cheated from.

Those of us who knew Tom well are saddened by his passing. Rest in peace, Tom, rest in peace.
New Proposed Legislation

The “Law Enforcement Safety Act of 2007”

By Jeffery Ortinau, Legal Advisor

When the 108th Congress passed the original “Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act of 2004” (18 U.S. Code 926B and 926C) authorizing active and retired police officers the right to carry firearms throughout the United States, it took a step forward in advancing public safety. The premise of that law was simple: Allowing trained, active duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms could only enhance public safety. It would also allow current and former officers to defend themselves against revenge attacks by those they had once brought to justice. Since 2004, however, certain issues in the original law have prevented police and the public from realizing its potential benefits. Many retired police officers, in particular, have complained that agencies will not make the necessary annual training available.

- In January of 2007, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and a bipartisan group of Judiciary Committee members, sponsored the proposed S.376 Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2007. The proposed law was designed to amend Title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes. A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:
  - S. 376 would reduce the period an officer must serve before gaining eligibility to carry firearms as a retiree. Under current law, only officers with 15 years of service are “qualified.” This arbitrary requirement discriminates against those who go into law enforcement as a second career after retiring from the military, for example. S. 376 reduces the requirement to 10 years.
  - S. 376 eliminates the requirement that retirees have “nonforfeitable” retirement benefits to qualify. Some small agencies have no such benefits, but a retiree’s need to defend himself should not depend on his pension plan.
  - S. 376 would clarify training requirements, to ensure that a retiree can meet the mandatory requalification standard either through the agency he or she formerly served, or through the state where he or she currently resides.
  - S. 376 would create more flexibility in training. Currently, many retired police officers who are otherwise well qualified, cannot find a state agency willing to train them because of liability concerns. While those concerns are largely imaginary, S. 376 attempts to fix the problem. It would allow certification of the retiree’s training by any person authorized to test law enforcement officers' qualification.

Keep in mind that this bill is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills go first to committees that deliberate, investigate and revise bills before they go to general debate. The majority of bills never make it out of committee. The last action taken on this bill was April 12, 2007. This bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary committee for consideration and mark up. I believe that this bill is pro law enforcement. If you feel the same, contact your Senator and ask him or her to support this proposed legislation.

Contract Corner

Wescom

Settled. Fully retroactive. Three years, 2006–2008. Depending on step placement, telecommunicators will receive 6–13% over the contract term. Top of wage scale receives greater percentage. Top out along remains at 10 years. Part-timers will receive an hourly wage up from $17.37 per hour to $23.52 per hour. Medical insurance increases were slight. Sick leave incentive.

Lakemoor

Four-year contract, fully retro. 2006–2008. Wages of 6%, 6%, and 6%, plus equity adjustment depending on placement into a step scale.

Free health insurance for employees. 10% of cost for dependents. Sick time incentive.

Niles

First ever contract. Four-year fully retro. Wages of 3.5% per year. Arbitration of discipline. Two personal days. 76.5 hour comp time bank. Permanent shift assignment on yearly basis. 9% officer contribution of health care for family.
Dear Metropolitan Alliance of Police:

I have been a loyal member of MAP for eight years and I am greatly disappointed that I am unable to continue my legal defense at this time. Although I cannot be a member, I will continue to be loyal to the organization in any way I can.

During the eight years I was associated with MAP, I have come to know Joe Andalina and Joe Mazzone quite well. I guess that’s what happens when administrators consider you a rebel rouser, a whistle blower or a non kiss-ass. I was in my fair share of trouble and MAP always came to my assistance. Joe Andalina never turned his back, and Joe Mazzone never turned down a fight. They always gave me their wholehearted support and good advice. I do not believe that any other police union is willing to protect, support, and defend its members better than MAP does. I know this because I have dealt with other police unions that did not care about its members the way MAP always has.

I wish MAP continued success and luck with its future endeavors. I want police officers to know that when they are in trouble, MAP will be there to back them up. I also hope I will be a member of MAP again in the future. Thank you for all the kind gestures, words, and superb legal defense.

Sincerely,
Claudia Murphy

Joe:

Just a note to say thanks for all that MAP has done for Bensenville. I served as president of Local 165 twice and have always been happy with the help you have given. Even when I complained you always were there telling me to calm down. As of today, I am retired from law enforcement and working as dispatch for the Bloomingdale Fire Department. Keep up the good work.

Bill Spradling

January 5, 2007

Dear Joseph,

As the 94th General Assembly comes to a close, I wanted to drop you a short note to say thank you. My service in the Illinois General Assembly will not soon be forgotten. I’m grateful for the opportunity I have been given to serve the people of the great State of Illinois. I wanted to thank you for your kindness and help you provided me as I navigated through the system.

Remembering what President Abraham Lincoln said “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today,” I wish you continued success in all your endeavors. May God continue to bless you and watch over you and your family.

Have a great 2007 and if I can do anything to help you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,
Roger A. Jenish

Mr. Andalina:

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your organization for representing the officers of the Lakemoor Police Department. The gains made with the assistance of MAP are immeasurable, for the officers of our chapter. We have gone from being the lowest paid and worst compensated department in our area to having a wage and benefit package that is very competitive in our market.

I would also like to inform you that Mr. Steve Calcaterra did an outstanding job in guiding, advising, and serving as legal counsel for our chapter. His knowledge and expertise in the area of contract negotiations was more valuable to our organization that I could possibly relate to you. With Steve’s guidance and advice we obtained the best possible contract, and I don’t believe that anyone else could have led us through this procedure on a more professional manner.

Sincerely,
Officer Andrew Hewett, Lakemoor PD
The Illinois Appellate Court, Second District held that correctional officers cannot be forced to submit to a polygraph examination during a departmental investigation (see Kelly v. The Sheriff’s Merit Commission of Kane County, No. 2-06-0624, April 12, 2007).

The facts to the case are simple. Plaintiff Michelle Kelly is a correctional officer employed by the sheriff of Kane County. Following a disciplinary hearing before the Kane County Sheriff’s Merit Commission, Ofc. Kelly was suspended without pay for 120 days for insubordination, because she failed to comply with a superior officer’s order that she submit to a polygraph examination. Kelly appealed the decision to the trial court, which upheld the Commission’s decision. Kelly then appealed to the Appellate Court, which reversed and remanded the case back to the trial court.

Kelly claimed she was entitled to the protection of section 3.11 of the Uniform Peace Officers’ Disciplinary Act (50 ILCS 725/1), which states “in the course of any interrogation, no peace officer shall be required to submit to a polygraph test, or any other test questioning by means of any chemical substance, except with the officer’s express written consent. Refusal to submit to such tests shall not result in any disciplinary action nor shall such refusal be made part of his or her record”. The Commission claimed that the Act applies only to “peace officers” and therefore she was entitled to the protection of the Act.

The Appellate Court applied the reasoning from the Illinois Supreme Court case Kaske v. City of Rockford, 96 Ill. 2d 298 (1983), which stated that polygraph evidence violates the requirement of a fair hearing because the examinations do not produce results that are more probative than prejudicial. As to section 3.11 of the Act, the court acknowledged that it does apply only to peace officers, not to correctional officers. But the court further noted that the legislature, when drafting section 3.11 of the act, did not include language that the protection from mandatory polygraph examinations should be limited to that protection explicitly provided in that section.

If you have any comments or questions, or would like to review the entire court’s decision, please contact me at 630-420-2081.

Top Ten Excuses

The following are the best excuses if you get caught sleeping on the job.

1. They said this might happen at the blood bank.
2. This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.
3. I wasn’t snoring—that was a complicated breathing exercise. Are you discriminating against me because I practice Yoga? Someone call my rep!
4. Someone made decaf.
5. Quickly raise your head and say “Amen.”
6. The guy at the Taco Bell slipped me a Mickey.
7. I’m actually testing this keyboard for drool resistance.
8. Sorry about that; the boss was just over here telling one of his war stories.
9. I’m resting up for the drug test.
10. That’s it—no more turkey sandwiches!

Source: American Police Beat
Line of duty police deaths in 2006

The Officer Down Memorial Page Inc. reports a total of 143 line-of-duty deaths for our brother and sister officers in 2006. The fatalities break down as such:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plane/helicopter accidents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle accidents</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by vehicle (outside of car)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In pursuit of vehicles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault by vehicle</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomb</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duty-related illness</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun deaths</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns (accidental)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabbed to death</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart attack while on duty</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is notable here are the number of officer deaths caused by to automobiles and motorcycles. Over one-half of all 2006 deaths can be attributed to the use or misuse of these vehicles.

A stirring statistic is the 17 officers killed by assault with a vehicle. Keep that in mind when some may criticize you for shooting at a car you believe is being used as a deadly weapon to run you over. It happens and seems to be happening with more frequency.

That, and officers killed in car crashes, are leading the list, right behind death by gunfire, the number one killer of cops.

Staying safe out there isn’t always easy but be aware of how cops die every year.

MAP moves into new headquarters

On May 4, 2007, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police moved into their new office. The building is located at 215 Remington, Suite C, in Bolingbrook.

Please make a note of the new address. Our telephone and fax numbers are the same.

Our thanks to Mike Johnstone of Bolingbrook for the great looking door!
More News From Around the MAP

New Chapters on the MAP

DOC DCSI Deputy Chiefs
St Charles Sgts
Burr Ridge Sgts and Cps

Arbitrations

DuPage Co Deputies and Court Services
Gilberts filed and pending
Palos Hills filed and pending

Negotiations in Progress

Bensenville
Crest Hill
Crystal Lake
Darien Police Civilians
DuPage County Coroners
DuPage County Forest Preserve
East Dundee
Ford Heights
Hickory Hills
Johnsburg
McCook PO & Sgts
NIU Police
Oak Lawn Civilians
Oak Lawn Police
Palos Park
Round Lake PO
Round Lake Supvs
South Elgin
Sugar Grove
Warrenville PO
Warrenville Sgts
West Dundee
Woodridge (among others)

Signed Contracts

Channahon
Matteson Sgts
Stroger Hospital Sgts
Seneca
University of IL
Wilmington
Wescom Dispatch

Collective Bargaining Chapters

Addison
Algonquin
Algonquin Police CSO’s & Dispatch
Bartlett
Bensenville
Bolingbrook
Bolingbrook Sgts/Lts
Braidwood
Bridgeview
Burr Ridge Sgts and Cpls
Carpentersville Civilians
Carpentersville Police
Carpentersville Sgts
Channahon
Chicago State University Police
Chicago State University Sgts
Cicero Lts
Coal City
Cook Co Correctional Officers
Cook County EM/Dispatch/ Vehicle Service
Cook Co DCSI Deputy Chiefs
Crest Hill
Crete
Crystal Lake
Darien Police and Sgts
Darien Police Civilians
DesPlaines
DesPlaines Sgts/Lts
DeKalb County
DuPage Co Patrol/Court Services
DuPage Co Coroner
DuPage Co Forest Preserve
East Dundee
Elwood
Elk Grove Village
Ford Heights
Gilbert
Grundy County
Hanover Park
Hawthorne Woods
Hickory Hills
Highwood
Hoffman Estates
Hoffman Estates Sgts
Huntley
IL DOC Investigators
ISTHA
ISTHA Call-takers
John Stroger Hospital Sgts
Johnsburg
Justice
Justice Sgts
Lake Forest
Lake in the Hills Police
Lake in the Hills Dispatch/ CSO’s
Lakemoor
LaSalle County
LaSalle Co Correctional Officers
Lemont
Lemont Sgts
Lisle
Lockport
Matteson
Matteson Sgts
McCook PO and Sgts
Metra
Mioooka
Montgomery
Morris
Morton Grove Sgts
Mt Prospect
Mt Prospect Sgts
Naperville Sgts
New Lenox Sgts
Niles Police
Norridge
Northbrook Sgts
Northern IL Emergency Communications Center
Northern Illinois University
Northern IL University Sgts
Oak Lawn
Oak Lawn Telecom, CSO’s, & Detention Aides

Legal Defense Chapters

Addison Sgts
Barrington Hills Sgts
Belvidere Sgts
Bensenville Sgts
Bolingbrook Civilians
Channahon Sgts
Cook County Canine
Cook Co Correctional Sgts/Lts
Cook County Sheriff’s Police
Crest Hill Sgts
DuPage County Corrections
Evergreen Park
Frankfort
Genoa
Gurnee
Hampshire
Hinsdale Sgts
LaGrange Park
Lake County
Lake Villa
Manhattan
McCook Civilians
Mt Prospect Sgts
New Lenox
Norridge Auxiliary Officers
Northlake
Palatine
Palos Park Police part-time
Petoone
Roselle Command
Round Lake Park
South Barrington Command
Winnetka CSO
Woodridge Sgts