

## **A Few Minutes with the Boss**

By: Joseph Andalina

### **More cop hating**

Recently two incidents of officers involved shootings of black men have occurred, one in Minnesota and one in Louisiana. The Louisiana case has been all over the news and two videos surfaced do not put the officers in a good light. So naturally the media never stops replaying it. The case in Minnesota of the shooting was not recorded but the news in that case sounds detrimental to the officer also.

However, as defenders of cops, we cannot judge. We pray that the officers involved followed a use-of-force continuum and fired their weapons ethically. The cliché that we were not there is once again true — so we wait for the investigation to provide the truth. But again, anti-cop sentiment is ginned up and five Dallas cops are gunned down and murdered by a black man. It appears we are all turning on one another and how can we prevent it? It's not good enough for me to hear chiefs say — let's just go out and do our jobs now — no way. Make sure you come home tonight to your family who loves you.

My thought in these cases is what goes on in the minds of officers during these encounters. In both instances, the citizen/suspect had handguns. In Minnesota, the person shot stated he had a handgun and while searching for an ID was shot. Or was he? New analysis may show that he had the firearm in his lap. Either way, was the officer justified?

The other case shows an officer tackling the individual and while engaged in a scuffle, an officer pulls his weapon after seeing or hearing that the suspect had a weapon and shoots him multiple times.

The simple fact of having a handgun is in the officer's favor. However, it's also how the officer reacted. There are 350 million handguns in America. Many people have them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment guarantees our right to own one. Concealed Carry permits allow all Americans to own them, so nowadays we are going to see many people with firearms in public.

My point is not to chastise cops, or the citizens who may carry firearms. But rather, inform our brother/sister officers that there is new normal out there. You must be wise to the new rules that in many instances it is **okay** to carry in public and to be aware that just because someone has a gun, does not mean they are going to use it.

New training must be undertaken to differentiate if even possible the bad guys with guns and the good guys with guns. Sounds impossible, I know. But the approach to this sad situation has to be recognized and dealt with.

Shooting a man while on the ground with a gun in his pocket — same thing. This situation can happen to any of us who carry legally.

The outright cry of a “he’s got a gun” escalates the whole matter and tragedy seems to follow more and more.

Granted, bad guys with guns have led to this reaction. No one wants to bleed on the street because we waited too long to react and I speak from experience. I have almost been killed a couple of times on the street. But the circumstances particular to my experiences saved my ass. Thank you, Lord!

It will always be a gray area. It’s a dangerous and thankless job but I’m certain additional extensive training under these new paradigms can and will help.

We can only wait and see for the officers and how it all pans out. Everyone must live with their decisions no matter how sad it ultimately turns out.

And so we bury more of us amidst a public that seemingly does not care. But there are good people out there too, as you witness the grief, words of sorrow, and flowers placed as condolences at the Dallas PD. However, we want all our brothers and sisters to come home tonight.

Vita é bella