Stink, stank, stunk

By Joseph Andalina

Christmas has been over and the New Year has passed, but the Grinch is a resilient one and is still around. That’s the only way I can describe the mess that politicians have created for cops, starting late last year and festering into the beginning and beyond 2015.

Started out with the Missouri shooting and the inept police chief and governor totally excelling in spewing out garbage. Stumbling and mumbling instead of supporting their police officer who was later completely exonerated by a grand jury. Instead of coming out decisive and transparent, they chose silence and then political correctness instead of the truth.

This was followed up by a lack of leadership as they allowed their city to burn as you all saw over and over on the flat screen. Then, while the race hustlers, agitators, and cop-haters vented their scorn, the Ferguson administration banned the wearing of buttons by their cops showing their support of the police officer for fear that it would upset the fragile feelings of those who looted and burned the city anyway.

I give them a major fail on how to support their own. Their “hearts are an empty hole” to quote a verse in the Grinch lyrics.

On top of that, as I wrote in an op-ed piece on our website, they stated repeatedly that the officer has left the force but he did not receive any benefits, wages, or severance. They were falling all over themselves to satisfy the frenzied crowd who again looted and burned the city anyway. And I won’t even get into the malfeasance and omission by the governor not to use the troops on the ground who had to put up with the criminals. A lack of faith in their own people, undoubtedly poured fuel on the fire (excuse the pun) in creating an atmosphere to allow misinformation and lies to flourish.

I can only sing the refrain once again. “Their souls are an appalling dump heap overflowing with the most disgraceful assortment of deplorable rubbish.”

Then in New York, another officer is blamed for the death of a man and the press and politicians condemn them to the crowd seething and shouting for blood. Accusations of racial hatred were heard in both instances when not warranted.

In Missouri, an officer fired shots in fear of his life. In New York an officer and three others with a black supervisor on hand try to take down and arrest a law violator.

Continued on page 8
Chaplain’s Column

By: Thomas Ross

Lots of “STUFF” going on in our world today as we see in our daily news. We recognize so much of it is happening outside of our daily world but how about the stress that surrounds us in your daily life “on the job”? For the most part, there is the daily dose of “routine calls.” Everyone knows it is about 98% of your career. Then, the 2% of critical incidents happen and one needs to deal with that in your job and your personal life. This is called critical incident stress; you don’t see it coming, your normal coping skills don’t work and it can be life changing.

Jeffrey Mitchell, Ph.D., C.T.S. describes critical incidents as “…unusually challenging events that have the potential to create significant human distress and can overwhelm one’s usual coping mechanisms.” Critical incidents usually involve something traumatic such as officer involved shootings, line of duty death, officer suicides, or exposure to extreme human suffering; gory homicide or accident scenes, or — (fill in the blank).

Most critical incident stress (CIS) involves line officers. They frequently respond to emergency calls involving fatal car crashes, violent crimes, and combative suspects.

CIS can lead to a variety of ailments. These include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), panic attacks, and depression, not to mention alcohol and/or drug abuse. These experiences accumulate and can eventually change a person. A person becomes jaded and cynical.

CIS can be described as having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. Based on your career, cops want to deal with these situations as just part of the job and therein lies the issue, for critical incidents are very few and far apart in a career. I know in talking with officers, they can tell you exactly when they saw their first deceased and when they made their first arrest. These times are molded into our mind. I spoke with an officer who was going through stress over a violent arrest where they thought they were going to lose their gun and yes, even their life. It was difficult to just brush it off, to place it into just part of the job. They did reach out for help and were able to deal with it mainly by talking it out and realizing how their training gave them the tools to handle the situation. Now it did not go away, they were able to file it away as part of the 2% of their top calls.

This is one example of how CIS can overwhelm a person. So how do you stop this push of critical incident stress from ripping your insides out? Some advice from the experts in CIS: Know yourself. The first step to battle CIS is to be prepared. Take care of yourself before a critical incident. Exercise, good diet, and downtime are helpful. Hydrate with water. Know your stress levels, and when you need a break. Build relationships with loved ones, they will continue on page 10.

Chief’s Follies

What’s this “we,” paleface?

By: Joseph Andalina

That’s my question to the press on their unrelenting quest begging politicians to deflake your pension—like Tom Brady’s balls. But in this instance it’s the politicians’ devious ways that FUBAR’d the pension system. That is, if in fact it is really messed up.

After years of whining the press can’t point to any municipalities that are bankrupt or going that way. And the ones that were underfunded are because your mayors, councillors, governors, and other administrators are responsible. Most of these yokeaks could not run a business but are entrusted to run a government? What a joke.

So anyway, after we had an appellate court judge in November rule in favor of the state employee that Quinn, Madigan, Nekritz, Bliss, and Cross, our court judge in November rule in favor of the state employee that Quinn, Madigan, Nekritz, Bliss, and Cross, the assembly taking away pension benefits for workers and retirees got deep-sixed, the caterwauling began again. Then we had to endure more editorials and special op-ed stories how the press and the politicians are looking out for us, protecting us so we have some kind of retirement benefit in the future. It’s for our pensions, so “we” should support pension reform so we can solve this unsustainable crisis that our taxpayers have to suffer without actually telling is what the taxpayer is suffering.

Some in the press called the appel-late court decision a Pyrrhic victory for labor. Oh really? Sore losers, they are. Of course, it’s a Pyrrhic victory because they are really looking out for “we” and the taxpayers. So today’s vic-tory will be tomorrow’s defeat when our pensions go under or services are cut. Bunche of baloney.

I don’t believe anything that comes from the hypocrites claiming to be looking out for us or “we.” Too much blovating for my blood. I don’t believe them at all and think some are down-right manipulators and liars in order to get their petulant way and to come out from under their malfeasance.

Like the late Tom Magliozzi from Car Talk once said, “Happiness equals reality minus expectations.”

Our happiness is a full pension minus political expectations — or interfer-ence.

Hands up. Make me throw up.

Imagine with all you go through daily, and then to suffer the actions and stales and criticisms from citizens over the Ferguson, MO riots, the pseudo-chokehold case in New York, the assassination of officers and the attempts on other cop lives, topped off with the execution of the officer in Arizona caught on his body camera and then you see your police chief standing outside, smiling and holding a sign saying “I resolve to challenge racism @work. #endwhitesilence.”

Well, the police chief did this in Pittsburg and pissed off his cops. Nice, huh? Your chief thinks you’re just a bunch of racists. He isn’t really healing anything even if he thought so. His cops will always think of him as a publicity hound. And he isn’t apolo-getic, either.

After getting on Katie Couric’s show, he told her he absolutely would do it again but this time would tell his department. But if you did something like that, he probably might fire your dusty ass for not going through the chain.

He belongs on Bozo’s Circus, but it went off the air a while ago.

All dogs go to heaven

Fortunately for Biko, a trained police dog, he won’t have to see if that is really true anytime soon. The Midlo-thian police chief recently apologized for suggesting he might shoot and kill the department’s K-9 when his police officer handler resigned and went to another barn.

Probably being aggravated, he told an Oak Forest dispatcher, according to a
Chief's Follies

Continued from page 3

recording of the call obtained by the Chicago Tribune, that (now that the officer quit) he would be stuck (with the dog) so he was either going to shoot the dog or find somewhere to put it.

Really? You’re a police chief. Can’t find a home for him so you’re going to whack the dog? Bright you’re not.

By the way, the judge ordered that the 90 days under a $5,000 bond. Not bad, huh? Well, after 30 days, the dog is no longer under bond and can walk the streets again.

But you’re a chief! You’d never lie, would you?

Of course, you fools. Some of us lie all the time because we know as a chief we can usually get away with it. Well, the “rising star” in law enforcement finally felt the hammer of doom. His helicopter crashed. I’ve written about him before so we won’t rehash it here, other than to say that disgraced ex-chief and one-time president of the Illinois Police Chief Association, Timothy Swanson, pled guilty to money laundering, tax evasion, and filing false tax returns.

Lots of lying here, folks. He could get three-five years or probation. Sentencing is in May. Stay tuned. Oh, the lying part besides the crimes?

Tim previously denied any wrongdoing and claimed he was the victim of unfair allegations. He had the nerve to file a lawsuit against the Chicago Tribune, who wrote about this mess, for a variety of baloney. Bluff and bluster, as chiefs are wont to do. He later dropped the lawsuit, was investigated, subpoenaed, indicted, and now the guilty plea.

Will he go or no — to jail that is.

Editor: I had some other good stuff but they will have to wait as there is a lot of information we had to get in this issue.

It seems that there is never a shortage of wonderful things our chiefs, brass, press, or politicians do in the name of law enforcement.

MAP Golf Outing

Our 20th Gold Outing has been scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015. The venue has changed to the Links at Carillon, located in Plainfield. The cost of $110 covers greens fees, golf cart, lunch, buffet dinner, and a three-hour open bar. Space is limited, so call the MAP office to reserve your space! Flyers to follow.

Legislative News

by: Joseph Andalina

New Laws for 2015

I really wish our legislators would take a long hiatus or vacation. Give us all a break for a year or two of this lawmaking business. Remember, more laws just means there will be more liars, thieves, and criminals created.

But here goes:

• Kids can have a lemonade stand now as long as they don’t make $1,000.

• Spousal maintenance guidelines are here. A couple who divorce, whose combined gross income is less than $250,000 are now subjected to a formula to determine who gets what. But the judge doesn’t have to use it if he only explains why he doesn’t want to use it.

Got that? Another reason to stay single.

• Water buffalo milk can now be regulated for whoever is providing buffalo milk to whomever.

Moo! Will Whoatees still taste okay with water buffalo milk?

• More places your kid can’t drink alcohol. New laws prohibit your underage child from drinking in your camper, your boat, or other vehicle type things.

And your water buffalo if you should have one.

• Speed limits raised to 70/60 for cars and trucks.

Yes, it applies to water buffalo, too.

• Home sales — my personal favorite. Home sellers must now declare damage to doors, windows, flood damage, lead paint, asbestos, and if they had a meth lab on the premise.

All you guys with a meth lab in your home, raise your hand. Where’s Raylan when we need him?

• Animal stories! Protection for lions and wolves and bears.

Oh my!

• Quotas a thing of the past as of January 1, 2015.

But you need to know that chiefs and sheriffs forgot this one and have dark side attorneys teaching them the secret of loopholes to get around the law.

• Video recorded lineups are now the law. New state law intended to curb any possible bias in lineups is the rule. The police must video record when crime victims or witnesses are shown in person lineups and detectives must do the same in photo lineups of mug shots.

And of course a detective with no ties to a particular investigation must carry out the lineup video recording.

I thought all cops in any PD have connections to all cases in their barn? Am I missing something here other than government and politicians don’t even trust us to handle a simple lineup? But like “Miranda” I guess we shall overcome.

• There are more than 200 new laws going into effect this year in our great state.

Oh joy

At press time the Great Pension Review is still pending. We all hope to see the Illinois Supreme Court do the right thing and let us all keep our retirement benefits. Should be heard in March 2015.

Well they with so much political hyperbole? We will let you know.

Oh, one more thing, Bruce Rauner is our new Governor. Quinn is out and he did veto the law allowing the hunting of bobcats.

He did let many prisoners out of jail via clemency or pardons. Remains to be seen if that protects anyone.

He said his comments were inappro-

priate and unprofessional and that he wasn’t really serious and the dog was in no real danger. So now the dog has been placed with another handler. See how easy that was?

And Biko has applied for an Order of Protection to keep the chief 100 yards from him and not to have any direct contact with him.

Of course, you fools. Some of us lie all the time because we know as a chief we can usually get away with it. Well, the “rising star” in law enforcement finally felt the hammer of doom. His helicopter crashed. I’ve written about him before so we won’t rehash it here, other than to say that disgraced ex-chief and one-time president of the Illinois Police Chief Association, Timothy Swanson, pled guilty to misusing $250,000 for his personal use from the helicopter business he started. Seven counts of mail fraud, money laundering, tax evasion, and filing false tax returns.

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Metropolitan Alliance of PoliceSpring 2015

4

Spring 2015

5
The “21-foot Rule”

By: Jeffery Ortinau

Last issue we had the first part of the 21-foot rule, which dealt with police shootings. Here is Part II.

VALIDITY

In real-world encounters, many variables affect time, which is the key component of the 21-Foot Rule. What is the training skill and stress level of the officer? How fast and agile is he? How alert is he to preliminary cues to aggressive movement? How agile and fast is the suspect? Is he drunk and stumbling, or a young guy in a ninja outfit ready to rock and roll? How adept is the officer at drawing his holstered weapon? What kind of holster does he have? What kind of weapon is he? How alert is he to preliminary warnings? What is the training skill and stress level of the officer? How fast and agile is he?

The 21-Foot Rule was formulated by timing subjects beginning their head-long run from a dead stop on a flat surface offering good traction and officers standing stationary on the same plane, sidearm holstered and snapped in. The FSRC has extensively measured action and reaction times under these same conditions. Among other things, the Center has documented the time it takes officers to make 20 different actions that are common in deadly force encounters.

Here are some of the relevant findings that the FSRC applied in reevaluating the 21-Foot Rule:

1. Once he perceives a signal to do so, the AVERAGE officer requires 1.5 seconds to draw from a snapped Level II holser and fire one unsighted round at center mass. Add 1/4 of a second for firing a second round, and another 1/10 of a second for obtaining a flash sight picture for the average officer.

2. The fastest officer tested required 1.31 seconds to draw from a Level II holser and get off his first unsighted round. The slowest officer tested required 2.25 seconds.

3. For the average officer to draw and fire an unsighted round from a snapped Level III holster, which is becoming increasingly popular in LE because of its extra security features, takes 1.7 seconds.

4. Meanwhile, the AVERAGE suspect with an edged weapon raised in the traditional “ice-pick” position can go from a dead stop to level, unobstructed surface offering good traction in 1.5-1.7 seconds.

5. The “fastest, most skillful, most powerful” subject FSRC tested “easily” covered that distance in 1.27 seconds. Intense rage, agitation and/or the influence of stimulants may even shorten that time, Lewinski observes.

6. Even the slowest subject “lumbered” through this distance in just 2.5 seconds.

Bottom line: Within a 21-foot perimeter, most officers dealing with most edged-weapon suspects are at a decided—perhaps fatal—disadvantage if the suspect launches a sudden charge intent on harming them. “Certainly it is not safe to have your gun in your holster at this distance,” Lewinski says, and firing in hopes of stopping an activated attack within this range may well be justified.

But many unpredictable variables that are inevitable in the field prevent a precise, all-encompassing truism from being fashioned from controlled “laboratory” research.

The “21-foot rule” continued from previous page

“If you shoot an edged-weapon offender before he is actually on you or at least within reaching distance, you need to anticipate being challenged on your decision by people both in and out of law enforcement who do not understand the sobering facts of action and reaction times,” says FSRC National Advisory Board member Bill Everett, an attorney, use-of-force trainer and former cop. “Someone is bound to say, ‘Hey, this guy was 10 feet away when he dropped and died. Why did you have to shoot him when he was so far away from you?’

Be ale to articulate why you felt yourself or other innocent party to be in imminent or immediate life-threatening jeopardy and why the threat would have been substantially accentuated if you had delayed, Everett advises. You need to specifically mention the first motion that indicated the subject was about to attack and was beyond your ability to influence verbally.

And remember: No single rule can arbitrarily be used to determine when a particular level of force is lawful. The 21-Foot Rule has value as a rough guideline, illustrating the reactionary curve, but it is by no means an absolute.

The Supreme Court’s landmark use-of-force decision, in Graham v. Connor, established a “reasonableness standard,” Everett reminds. You’ll be judged ultimately according to what a reasonable officer would have done. All of the facts and circumstances that make up the dynamics between you and the subject will be evaluated.”

Of course, some important facts may be subtle and now widely known or understood. That’s why FSRC’s unique findings on lethal-force dynamics fit in. Explains Lewinski: “The FSRC’s research will add to your ability to articulate and explain the facts and circumstances and how they influenced your decision to use force.”

MORE DISTANCE

In reality, the 21-Foot Rule—by itself—may not provide officers with an adequate margin of protection. Dr. Bill Lewinski, FSRC’s executive director, “It’s easily possible for suspects in some circumstances to launch a successful fatal attack from a distance greater than 21 feet. Among other police instructors, John Delgado, retired training officer for the Miami-Dade (FL) PD, has extended the 21-Foot Rule to 30 feet. “Twenty-one feet doesn’t really give you enough time to get your gun out and fire accurately,” he says. Higher-security holsters complicate the situation, for one thing. Some manufacturers recommend 3,000 pulls to develop proficiency with a holster. Most cops don’t do that, so it takes them longer to get their gun out than what’s ideal.

Also shooting proficiency tends to deteriorate under stress. Their initial rounds may not even hit. Beyond that, there’s the well-established fact that a suspect often can keep going from momentum, adrenaline, chemicals and sheer determination, even after being shot. Experience informs us that people who are shot with a handgun do not fall down instantly nor does the energy of a handgun round stop their forward movement, states Chris Lawrence, team leader of DT training at the Ontario (Canada) Police College and an FSRC Technical Advisory Board member.

Lewinski: “Certain arterial or spinal hits may drop an attacker instantly. But otherwise a wounded but committed suspect may have the capacity to continue on to the officer’s location and complete his deadly intentions.” That’s one reason why tactical distractions, which we’ll discuss in a moment, should play an important role in defeating an edged-weapon attack, even when you are able to shoot to defend yourself.

When working with bare-minimum margins, any delay in an officer responding to a deadly threat can equate to injury or death, reinforces attorney and use-of-force trainer Bill Everett, an FSRC National Advisory Board member. So the officer must key his or her reaction to the first overt act indicating that a lethal attack is coming.

More distance and time give the officer not only more tactical options but also more opportunity to confirm the attacker’s lethal intention before selecting a deadly force response.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

Relying on OC or a Taser for defeating a charging suspect is probably a serious mistake. Gary Klugiewicz, a
stink, stank, stunk

While I would be the first to agree that it was a "pimpy" violation, the officers were doing what they were called and ordered to do once the individual resisted.

I understand the commotion over a chokehold, but it looked more like a headlock where smaller cops tried to take down a much larger man. I'm not sure if this was anywhere near a properly executed chokehold, either.

These cops, or the one accused of the chokehold did not seek out this man to murder or take away his life in the performance of their duty. Lots of factors entered into the death of this individual.

In the turning of the world this stuff happens. It should not, and I am a big proponent of not arresting people for petty taxes or cigarette or other issues that it was a "pimpy" violation, the of- fender is titled Don't Insult My Sac- rifice. It accuses the mayor of "consis- tent refusal to show police officers the support and respect they deserve."

"You've got garlic in your mouth, Mr. Grinch," er, Mr. Mayor.

Now, unfortunately as I write this piece, word came out that two New York police officers were gunned down in their squad car while eating lunch by a black man in retaliation for the Brown/Garner incidents.

I won't repeat the redundant talking points held over and over, and the polarization of their deaths. However, the fact remains that these cops were executed by a guy who attended pro- tests and was obviously tainted in his criminal heart further by protestors' scream of "What do we want? Dead cops. When do we want them? Now."

The hypertension infused by the mayor, the federal attorney general, and POTUS resulted in what anyone with brains knew it would be — the assassination of police officers.

Like somehow in tribal mentality things even. More stupid and grim hashtags put out by the assailant in New York said he understood but thought it was wrong. Of course he does, he's the chief and must walk in lock step with the mayor will emanate from their lips.

This is what has happened to the cast of light that made us all heroes after 9/11 and in a thousand other venues where police officers gave their lives and saved officers simply by doing what they were hired to do — keep the peace and help others.

But this demonization, as I have often stated and written about over and over, did not start in Ferguson or New York or with this mayor.

Most mayors, while not so apolec- tic against cops have a certain disdain for us. Whether it's because they get tagged for a DUI, got careless with their pants down, couldn't get us to

Continued from previous page

"fix" a ticket, figured that they could get some votes for bashing us, using us as a buffer to enforce their ridicu- lous taxes or red light camera gigs and blaming us when things went bad or simply while fighting to cut our wages, benefits, and of course, pensions and retirement benefits, many really resent the police.

To that I say: "You nauseate me, Mr. Mayor, with a nauseous super naus!"

But this hatred of cops goes beyond anything since the 70's when the cops in New York, Chicago, and others were in the gun sights of murderous bastards. To see many political leaders so anti-police is very, very difficult to swallow.

So when cops turned their backs on Mayor DeBlasio, I stood with them. The Police Commissioner of New York said he understood, but thought it was wrong. Of course he does, he's the chief and must walk in lock step because he and many others don't have a singular voice. Only the voice of the mayor will emanate from their lips.

They all want to keep their jobs and not walk a beat anymore. Winter can still be a frozen tundra in New York.

PC Bratton later said, in attempt- ing to downplay the tension between NYPD and the mayor, "Can you point out to me one mayor who has not been battling with police unions in the last 50 years? Name one?" Well, thanks, PC for making my point.

But it is totally out of context. Bat- tling over wages and retirement is one thing. Battling for our lives by the race bairers who act in defiance of the facts, common sense and evidence to bash the police, support their agendas, and reduce police powers for political gains has no comparison. Such dis- ingenuous efforts. And to see those thugs sitting side by side with political leaders is disgusting to say the least.

While I was on active duty I too asked my wife and children to not allow the mayor and the chief (except for one) to attend my funeral in the event I got iced in the line of duty (and it came near on three occasions; a story for another time perhaps). And our local mayor can't half as bad as DeBlasio! Well, maybe close, but not as bad.

My beans were surely political, labor generated and brooked with the hypoc- risy that I saw and obviously encoun- tered. Nothing like the crap going on now in many jurisdictions in our USA. I didn't need their crocodile tears and phony expressions of grief. But maybe they wouldn't have shown up anyway.

But I ain't dead yet, so it's a moot point.

That does indicate, however, how deep the division was for this union guy. Just ask your own people in your chapter what they go through when they are really working for you and not stripes. It's no picnic for any of our union reps. I can't even imagine how painful it must be for the New York union leadership. I think you would all agree that they have done a great job in promoting support and respect for their own.

The simple fact here is that cops did their jobs. Out of fear, because they were sent to a location when citizens called and because confrontation takes place when police stop you. These two particular incidents ended in tragedy. It's not race, it's racism. It's not procedural violations. The police did not pull over Mr. and Mrs. White or Black and harass them. Doing their jobs resulted in confrontation. And it does so many times every day.

It would have been the same with any suspect, but that is overlooked and race is injected. Now it even goes beyond that. It's political posturing.

Simply speaking, do what the nice po- liceman or policewoman asks or orders and chances are very high that no one gets hurt. Now on the other side, can I say it is uncomfortable when cops stop you? Yes. If you're of color, does fear factor into your response? Yes, Can you rebel, feel put upon, harassed? Yes.

That is an issue with many people but I get the minority thinking. As a Sicil- ian, there was plenty of grief I took as a kid when not around other Italians. Got called "spaghetti bender" and other nice things by both cops and criminals and even nice white, black, and other hued folks. Not the same. Who says?

Words and actions are hurtful but the race hustlers don't tell you to become spiritual or mentally hardened. No, everyone is a racist. It's a tough world. Get over it. A few minutes talking to the nice policeman and most people go about their business. So you and I
Continued from page 9

got called names and we get over it. Is it racism to call us pigs? Or is the n-word, or the s-word in my case? (Yeah, let’s ban the word spaghetti, too.) No, they are just a-holes. Shall we have some spaghetti now? I’m hungry. Another white cop killing a black man in Milwaukee who was exonerated in wrongdoing led to the brother of the victim stating “the family has cried too long and we don’t have to be the voice of reason.”

“We need to stop the violence in our communities so we can get rid of the pigs that kill us. Because that’s what they are. They feed, they feed off of us. We are just a-holes. Shall we have some spaghetti now? I’m hungry. Because when they don’t want to be in the patrol car, sit at a dispatch center, work at a correctional facility, and investigate crimes. Because when they don’t want to be in the protective services, we are all going to be in trouble.

Will it get to the point, however, that our leaders continue to demonize us, force concessions, reduce pensions, do not back, support, or defend us that the police in the future will get in their squad cars at the beginning of their shifts, roll up the windows, crank up the AC and drift through their shift to the tunes of Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, or Sinatra?

It could happen if cops don’t feel safe. Can Robo Cop be the new tomorrow? Stink, stank, stunk

Continued on page 15

Chaplain’s Column

Continued from page 2

just add more chemicals to the mix. Officers fall back to the level of their training. Most go into “automatic pilot” when facing a critical incident. You are trained to control yourselves and the situation until the crisis is resolved. This is important for officer safety.

After the crisis you may feel out of control. You may feel depressed, confused, angry, and a host of other things. You may feel numb and not feel anything at all. You may experience physical reactions such as head- aches, sleeplessness and/or night- mares, stomach upset, even vomiting. Realize it is normal to react abnor-

Continued on page 15

Spring 2015

Metropolitan Alliance of Police

Member News

23rd Judicial District
Elizabeth Godinho
Zachary Klatt
Addison
Cesar Chaidez
Catherine Diaz
Marko Lazic
Thomas Lynch
Ohiowatson Ogundare
Nicholas Torres
Algongquin
Amanda Olsta
John Palmer
Steven Skrodziki
Alsip
Jody Schmidt
Bradley Wineinger
Arlington Hts
Jeffrey Fontana
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Harvey
Willy Goddens
Hickory Hills
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Hoffman Estates
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Lakemoor
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Momence
Ignacio Czako
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Mt Prospect
Barret Csera
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Naperville Sgts
William Barrett
NWCDs
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Mitch Hendrick
Kyle Rodriguez
Brian Wiora
Olympia Fields
Lawrence Smith
Orland Hills
Thomas Scally
Oswego
Jody Brandis
Park Forest
Sean Bitgen
Brian Harrison
Romeoville
Anthony Baker
Tomaz Bednarzczyn
Schaumburg
Michael Daily
Seneca
D Kasner
South Elgin
William Werneske
St Charles
Joseph Eversole
Rick Mursawski
Streamwood
Civilians
Jose Luciano
Tri-Com
Robert Blume
Warrenville
Nathan Mead-mack
Wescem
David Brichacke
Robert Bruining
Juli Coughlin
Tiffany Edwards
Jillian Fassano
Amber Johnson
Krystyna Komperda
Mary Jo Lewandowski
Sarah Martuneac
Jessica Murillo
Stephanie Nangle
Dina Panos
Jasen Saraceak
Wheaton
Jacyenly Healy
Will Co Mgmt
Leo Hernandez
Jill Knutson
Chris McCleverty
Dan Struck
Promoted
Addison
Kevin Kuechler
Bolingbrook
John Hild
Scott Luttick
Michael Rompa
Thomas Ross
Stephen Simott
Buffalo Grove
Michelle Kondrat
Crystal Lake
Charles Harris
Hanover Park Sgts
Dakota Swoboda
Hoffman Estates Sgts
Darin Felgenauer
Michael Rauci
IL DOC
Kevin Verble
Lake Forest
Kevin Zelk
leading edged-weapon instructor and a member of FSRC’s National Advisory Board, points out that firing off Taser barbs may be an effective option in dealing with a threatening but STATIONARY subject. But depending on this force choice to stop a charging suspect could be disastrous. With fast, on-rushing movement, there’s a real chance of not hitting the subject effectively and of not having sufficient time for the electrical charge—or for a blast of OC—to take effect before he is on you, Klugiewicz says.

Lewinski agrees, adding: A rapid charge at an officer is a common characteristic of someone high on chemicals or severely emotionally disturbed. More research is needed, but it appears that when a Taser isn’t effective it is most often with these types of suspects.

Smug remarks about offenders foolishly “bringing a knife to a gunfight” betray dangerous thinking about the ultimate force option, too. Some officers are cockily confident they’ll defeat any sharp-edged threat because they carry a superior weapon: their service firearm. This belief may be subtly reinforced by fixating on distances of 21 or 30 feet, as if this is the typical reaction space you’ll have in an edged-weapon encounter.

The truth is where edged-weapon attacks are concerned, close-up confrontations are actually the norm,” points out Sgt. Craig Stapp, a firearms trainer with the Tempe (AZ) P.D. and a member of FSRC’s Technical Advisory Board. A suspect who knows how to effectively deploy edged weapons can be extremely dangerous in these circumstances. Even those who are not highly trained can be deadly, given the close proximity of the contact, the injury knives are capable of, and the time it takes officers to process and react to an assault.

At close distances, standing still and drawing are usually not the best tactics to employ and may not even be possible. At a distance of 10 feet, a suspect is less than half a second away from making the first cut on an officer, Lewinski’s research shows. Therefore, rather than relying on a holstered gun, officers must be trained in hands-on techniques to deflect or delay the use of the knife, to control it and/or to remove it from the attacker’s grasp, or to buy time to get their gun out. These methods have to be simple enough to be learned by the average officer.

Stapp strongly believes that training in edged-weapon defense should prepare an officer to deal psychologically with getting cut or stabbed, a realistic probability with long time, close encounters and desperate control attempts. Officers need to be trained to continue to fight, Stapp says. They will not have time to stop and assess how severe the wound is. You don’t want them in the mind-set, ’I’ve been cut, I’m going to die.’ They must remain focused on stopping the attack, taking out the guy who is the threat to them.”

Checking yourself over for injury after the offender is subdued is important, too, Klugiewicz says. “Some survivors of edged-weapon attacks report that they were not aware of being cut or stabbed when the injury occurred. They thought they had just been punched and didn’t realize what really happened until later.”

TRAINING

Assuming it is presented actually and in context with the many variables that shape knife encounters, the 21-Foot Rule can be a valuable training aid, Lewinski says. As a role-playing exercise, it provides a dramatic and memorable demonstration of how fast an offender can close distance, and it can motivate officers to improve their performance skills. Experiment with it and you may conclude, like Delgado, that 21 feet is not enough of a safety margin for your troops.

You might also use 21-Foot Rule exercises to test tactical methods for imposing lag time on offenders in order to buy more reaction time for officers. These could range from using or creating obstacles (standing behind a tree or shoving a chair between you and the offender) to moving yourself strategically. You’re probably familiar with the Tactical L, for example, in which an officer moves laterally to a charging offender’s line of attack. With the right timing, this surprises and slows the attacker as he processes the movement and scrambles to redirect his assault, and gives the officer opportunity to draw and get on target.

Lewinski favors a variation called the Tactical J. Here, instead of moving 90 degrees off line, the officer moves obliquely forward at a 45-degree angle to the oncoming offender. This tends to be more confusing to the suspect and requires more of a radical change on his part to come after you, Lewinski says. But the timing has to be such that the suspect is fully committed to his charge and can’t readily adjust to what you’ve done. That takes lots of practice with a wide variety of training partners.

If nothing else, training with the 21-Foot Rule will help officers better estimate just how far 21 feet is. Without a good deal of practice, most can’t accurately gauge that distance, Lewinski says, and thus tend to sabotage appropriate defensive reactions.

Don’t forget, though, that most edged-weapon attacks are up close and personal. That means training must include effective empty-hand-control techniques, close quarters shooting drills and weapon retention. We need to develop the ability to draw our sidearm, get on target and GET HITS extremely fast, while moving as a diversionary measure if possible, says Stapp. Close-range shooting—under 10 feet—will most effectively be accomplished when an officer has developed the ability to get on target ‘by feel,’ without using his sights.

Lewinski also recommends drills to imprint rapid reholstering techniques. Reholstering may become necessary if there’s a sudden change in threat level—say the offender throws his weapon down and is no longer presenting an imminent threat justifying deadly force—and the officer needs both hands free to deal with him.

There’s little doubt that the knife culture and related attacks on officers are dangerously flourishing. Edged-weapon assaults are a staple of the news reports of police incidents across the U.S. and Canada on the website of FSRC’s strategic partner, PoliceOne.com. Recently an officer in New York City was slashed in the face during a fight that broke out. On a man-with-a-gun call, in Ohio, a state trooper fatally shot a berserk motorist who charged him with a hatchet. And another offender, who called 911 in Pennsylvania to report he was having a heart attack, ended up shot 13 times and killed after commands and OC failed to stop him from lunging at a trooper with a chain saw. In Calgary (Canada) a blood-soaked man waved a bloody butcher knife over his head and charged at constables who responded to a domestic dispute. A suspected rapist attacked a Chicago detective with a screwdriver after luring him into an interrogation room by asking for a cigarette. In the reception area of a California prison, an inmate serving time for trying to kill a cop stabbed a correctional officer to death with a shank. In Idaho, an out-of-control teenager punched holes in the walls of his house with a 15-inch bayonet, then turned on a responding officer with the blade and sliced his uniform before the cop shot him.

Given today’s environment, rather than draw back on edged-weapon training, officers and agencies should be expanding it, Lewinski declares. Edged-weapon attacks are serious and should be taken seriously by trainers, officers and administrators alike. Finding out what works best in the way of realistic tactical defenses and then training those tactics as broadly as possible has never been more needed. (From www.forcescience.org)

Concluding remarks: Whether the “21 Foot Rule” is an applicable defense in an officer involved shooting actually depends upon the facts and evidence of each case. The shooting of a knife wielding suspect at less than 21 feet by an experienced, competent, and well equipped officer who has the tactical advantage of an obstruction such as a police vehicle between himself and his attacker might be inappropriate. But the shooting of a knife-wielding assailant at more than 21 feet by an inexperienced officer, wearing a difficult holster system, with no obstructions between himself and the attacker might be justified. As the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Graham v. Connor (490 U.S. 386, 109 S.Ct), stated, each high-risk encounter during a rapidly evolving situation is unique.

The “21 foot rule”
Rauner the Bruce is governor

Okay, that’s a bad pun, I know, about Robert the Bruce, the King of Scotland. Probably the Scot’s greatest king, even though the story told about him in the movie Braveheart makes him look like a self-serving opportunist.

After he wrestled control from the English at Bannockburn and for other “good deeds” he was later known as “Good King Robert.”

I doubt very much that Rauner the Bruce will bear that moniker as he is already acting like the English with power mongering to implement “right to work zones” and emphasizing anti-union animus. As always, he is looking out for the elite. Look for more “Rauner the Bruce” stories in future editions.

New MAP website

We are currently working on a redesign of our MAP website. We will be cleaning up some areas and establish a more visibly eye-catching domain, adding more features and content.

Look for it in the upcoming weeks.

Long live the King — Mr. Cub

Ernie passed away last January. The greatest ambassador of sports and beloved by all. Does it seem like 44 years since he retired? A unique legacy for those of us who were honored to see him play. Now he is gone. Hard to believe.

Hey! Hey! God bless you, Mr. Cub.

Chaplain’s Column

heal. Don’t shut them out. You don’t have to share the gory details, but do share how you felt. Hold their hand. Talk to them.

Find someone you trust and talk to them about the incident and vent. Chaplains can offer confidentiality, and are trained to listen. They understand the unique challenges officers face. Most are trained in CIS and can help directly or can refer to other professionals. Your faith can be a good place to take time and reflect on your blessings, please learn to lean on the good Lord. Know where to get help.

Chaplains, peer support and employee assistance programs are good places to start.

If you know someone who has recently gone through a CIS, don’t ignore them. Reach out your hand to them and offer help.

Remember POLICE WEEK in May, find a remembrance and attend to show your support. Be safe and take care of one another.

God Bless

Chaplain Tom Ross

sligo8@wowway.com

Quote:

What this country needs is more unemployed politicians.

—Edward Langley

Chapter Elections

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

**Des Plaines**

Joe Spallone  President

Chris Harrison  Vice President

Mike Meyer  Vice President

Gary Klier  Treasurer

Robert Fitzpatrick  Secretary

**Montgomery**

Dan Paskanic  President

Greg Mayou  Vice President

Dan Gonzalez  Secretary

Ryder Kern  Sergeant-at-Arms

**Norridge**

Louis D’Attorno  President

Benjamin Czaplewski  Vice President

Randy Niekamp  Vice President

Robert Clancy  Treasurer

**Western Springs**

Mike Heiner  President

Tanya Dees  Vice President

Nancy Nicoll  Treasurer
## Collective Bargaining Chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd Judicial Circuit Court Clerks</td>
<td>DuPage Co</td>
<td>Matteson Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addison</td>
<td>Forest Preserve</td>
<td>Maywood Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin</td>
<td>DuPage County</td>
<td>McCook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin CSOs/Disp</td>
<td>Forest Rangers</td>
<td>McHenry Co Crt Clerks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsip</td>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>Metra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Heights</td>
<td>East Dundee</td>
<td>Momence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrington Hills</td>
<td>Elwood</td>
<td>Minooka</td>
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<td>Bartlett</td>
<td>Elk Grove Village</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<td>Bensenville</td>
<td>Fox River Grove</td>
<td>Moraine Valley College</td>
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<td>Bolingbrook</td>
<td>Genoa</td>
<td>Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolingbrook Civilians</td>
<td>Gilbert</td>
<td>Mt Prospect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolingbrook Sgts/Lts</td>
<td>Glenwood</td>
<td>Mt Prospect Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeview</td>
<td>Grundy County</td>
<td>Mundelein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>Grundy County Civilians</td>
<td>Naperville Citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burr Ridge Sgts/Cpls</td>
<td>Hanover Park</td>
<td>Naperville Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentersville Civilians</td>
<td>Hanover Park Civilians</td>
<td>New Lenox Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentersville Police</td>
<td>Hanover Park Sgts</td>
<td>Norridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentersville Sgts</td>
<td>Harvey Patrol</td>
<td>Northlake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CenCom E-9-1-1</td>
<td>Harvey Sgts</td>
<td>Northlake Sergeants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channahon</td>
<td>Hawthorne Woods</td>
<td>North Aurora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago State</td>
<td>Hazel Crest</td>
<td>Northeastern II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Police</td>
<td>Hickory Hills</td>
<td>Campus Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago State</td>
<td>Hoffman Estates</td>
<td>Northern Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Sgts</td>
<td>Hoffman Estates Sgts</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal City</td>
<td>Homewood</td>
<td>Northern Illinois Sgts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County Dispatch and Vehicle Services</td>
<td>Huntley</td>
<td>University Sgents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Co DCSI Deputy Chiefs</td>
<td>IL DOC Investigators</td>
<td>Northern Illinois Telecommunicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Co Dispatch Supvs</td>
<td>Indian Head Park</td>
<td>Northern IL University Security Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Co Social</td>
<td>ISTHA</td>
<td>Northwest Central Dispatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caseworkers I and II</td>
<td>ISTHA Call-takers</td>
<td>Oak Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crest Hill</td>
<td>John Stroger Hospital Police Sgts</td>
<td>Oak Lawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crest Hill Sgts</td>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Oak Lawn Telecom, CSO’s, &amp; Detention Aides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crete</td>
<td>Justice Sgts</td>
<td>Olympia Fields</td>
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<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Lake Forest</td>
<td>Orland Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darien Police and Sgts</td>
<td>Lake in the Hills Police</td>
<td>Orland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darien Police Civilians</td>
<td>Lake in the Hills</td>
<td>Oswego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Plaines</td>
<td>Dispatch/CSO’s</td>
<td>Palos Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Des Plaines Sgts/Lts</td>
<td>Lakemoor</td>
<td>Palos Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Plaines Emergency Communications Center</td>
<td>LaSalle County</td>
<td>Park City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb County</td>
<td>LaSalle Co Correctional Officers</td>
<td>Park Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuPage Co Patrol/Court Svcns</td>
<td>Lemont</td>
<td>Peru T/Cs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuPage Co Coroner</td>
<td>Lemont Sgts</td>
<td>Plainfield</td>
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<td>Prospect Heights</td>
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<td>Quadcom Dispatch</td>
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<td>Woodridge Civilians</td>
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