

The background of the cover is a photograph of a classical building facade. At the top, a stone inscription reads "BUT ABOVE ALL THINGS TRUTH BEARETH AWAY THE VICTORY". Below this, the text "OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF-" is centered. The main title "THE COALITION" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle. Underneath the title, "THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters. The central focus is a large, muscular, bearded male statue seated in a niche, holding a staff. The statue is set against a large, arched stone structure. At the bottom of the cover, the text "SPRING, 2022 VOL. 24, NO. 1" is centered, and the website "nnoac.com" is at the very bottom. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, whites, and greens from some foliage on the right side.

BUT ABOVE ALL THINGS
TRUTH
BEARETH AWAY
THE VICTORY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF-

THE COALITION

THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

SPRING, 2022 VOL. 24, NO. 1

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2022 NNOAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



The Coalition

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United We Stand!

Engage in the dialog.

Front Cover:

Wally Gobetz - NYC: New York Public Library Main Branch - Truth. The marble figures and fountains on either side of the main portico entrance of the New York City Public Library Main Branch, by Frederick MacMonnies, a man seated on a Sphinx, the form associated with Wisdom. Above the figure is an inscription from the Apocrypha (1 Esdras, chapter 3): BUT ABOVE ALL THINGS / TRUTH / BEARETH AWAY / THE VICTORY.

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The Coalition is published twice per year. Submit articles, photos, region reports, kudos, busts and other items of interest to: wbutka@nnoac.com

ARCHIVES

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www.nnoac.com

President's Message

By Bob Bushman



Spring, 2022

As you know, we have postponed and rescheduled our annual NNOAC DC Delegates Conference due to the increased COVID restrictions in Washington, DC. Those restrictions, coupled with the possibility of further restrictive measures, caused the NNOAC Board to reschedule the NNOAC Conference to July 2022. NNOAC Conference details and registration/hotel reservation information are displayed in this issue of The Coalition and are also available on our website at www.nnoac.com. I hope you will join us there.

Having had to cancel our 2021 Conference, the NNOAC Board and I believe that we must do everything possible to host a 2022 Conference. We cannot afford to go two years without meeting, because there are just too many issues that need our collective thoughts and discussions.



President Bob Bushman

One item that recently caught the attention of the national media and local news outlets was the announcement that drug deaths in the US surpassed 100,000 during the past year. While that is certainly no surprise to any of us, some people were startled by that number and that generated several discussions about our nation's drug problem and many questions about the response to it.

It is unfortunate that, despite our warnings, most of our leaders were silent on this issue in the years leading up to that announcement. Now, with an election on the horizon, the issue is getting some attention – lots of talk, but no meaningful action. Until our elected officials get serious about enforcing our laws, controlling our borders, and holding drug abusers and violent criminals accountable for their crimes, the number of drug-related deaths in our country will continue to remain at unacceptably high numbers. This drug problem that our Country is experiencing cannot, and will not, fix itself.

The NNOAC and our partners are eager and well positioned to share our expertise and advice, yet very few of our leaders have stepped forward to seek our input or offer any effective solutions. Elected officials at every level of government have a responsibility to enact laws and policies that will reduce preventable deaths from drug abuse. That is not getting done.

" What you do is important. Never forget that. There are a lot of people out there who are grateful for the work that you do because you are still saving lives. "

Sure, there are many policies and laws that have been implemented to increase access to drug and addiction treatment and to rehabilitation programs for drug offenders. Those are important. But there has been little done to provide law enforcement with the laws and policies that are needed to bolster drug interdiction efforts and enforcement of drug laws, or to increase the ability to proactively investigate and prosecute drug trafficking organizations and their criminal associates.

Instead, some of the initiatives our politicians are supporting include reducing criminal penalties and releasing violent and repeat offenders, legalizing and decriminalizing dangerous drugs, opening "safe consumption/injection" sites that enable drug abusers, eliminating civil asset forfeiture, and making it difficult for law enforcement to access technology that can help to prosecute gangs, criminal organizations, and violent actors.

The result is that the drug trade and other criminal enterprises are flourishing. As drug abuse and addiction rapidly increase, as drug-related deaths reach record highs, and as violence and murders continue to plague our cities, there are no concentrated efforts to support law enforcement in reducing drug deaths or suppressing violent crime. And while our leaders and policy makers continue to spin their wheels, more of our good, law-abiding people and their families continue to become crime victims. That is shameful.

How did our leaders' priorities get so misplaced? What is it that they know about reducing crime that we don't? Why won't they work with us to reduce the terrible toll that drug abuse is causing in our country?

I ask these questions because – as we work amid the dramatic increases in drug deaths, drug trafficking and violence – we are seldom asked to come to the table to lend our expertise or to share our insights. Our profession is filled with dedicated, intelligent people who can offer good advice and effective solutions to reduce crime. Yet, as laws and policing policies are put into place by people outside of our profession who have other agendas and no law enforcement experience, they won't ask or listen to what the cops on the front lines have to offer.

It is insulting that some of those same people will instead seek input from the hate-the-police crowd. In times like these – when crime, violence, and drug deaths are so prevalent and rapidly increasing – that is inexcusable. Drug

addiction and violent crime do not discriminate by political party, race, gender, economic status, or zip code. Everyone is affected, everyone is vulnerable, everyone is at risk. Public safety policies should be based upon right and wrong, rather than right or left.

People are tired of being crime victims and of living in fear. If you listen, you will hear their demands to elected officials to start implementing policies that will protect them, rather than giving in to the misguided desires of those vocal groups that deplore the police, or that seek to coddle and make victims of offenders who do not respect and will not obey our laws. And those elected leaders had better listen, because our good citizens know that they deserve much better than they have been getting.

Even though many of you are experiencing the fallout from the current anti-police climate and the consequences of ill-conceived, poorly crafted, and blindly implemented policing policies, I ask you not to give up. Most of our citizens are good people who respect the law and appreciate your hard work and the risks you take on their behalf. I believe the time is coming when they will be begging you to come into their streets and communities, because they are finding out that nobody else can protect them.

What you do is important. Never forget that. There are a lot of people out there who are grateful for the work that you do because you are still saving lives.

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Farewell Message from Bob Bushman

To My NNOAC Friends, Partners, and Colleagues,

I have just written my last President's Message to you. After several years serving as a NNOAC Board Member, your Vice President, and now as your President, I have decided to step down. A new President will be elected at our annual NNOAC Delegates Meeting in July. It has been a truly rewarding (and sometimes humbling) experience to be your NNOAC President. After over 40 years in the law enforcement profession, I simply want to spend more time with my family and to pursue some of my other interests that have been marking time in the background.

I assure you that I am not leaving with any dissatisfaction. I have always been, and remain, a true believer in the NNOAC mission. From my years of affiliations with many professional groups, I know that every organization can benefit from changes in leadership. By bringing in new leaders, the NNOAC can plan and prepare for the future by taking advantage of their ideas and fresh perspectives to effectively address the many changes and challenges that are sure to come.

I would like to personally thank every one of you – the State Association Presidents and Boards, as well as our NNOAC members, partners, and friends. I especially want to extend my deepest appreciation to the NNOAC Executive Board Members (past and present), our Regional Directors, and to the staff at Brooks Bawden Moore for all the support and confidence they have shown in me throughout the years. All those people have worked hard on your behalf to keep the NNOAC relevant and moving ahead during some difficult times.

I also owe a sincere thank you to my friend and our NNOAC Executive Director, Ron Brooks. His wise counsel, sage advice, and worldly perspective have helped me and the NNOAC Board navigate through some tough issues. Ron has been the backbone of the NNOAC since it was born in 1994, and he continues to be a big contributor to our success. He is also one of the best storytellers I have ever known.

Finding the words to express the admiration and respect that I have for what you do is difficult. Not only for the risks you take, the sacrifices you make, and the countless lives you have saved, but also for the sincere gratitude that I have for the personal growth, the thoughtful perspectives, and the critical insights I have gained only because I had the opportunity to work with you, to meet with you, and to lead with you.

It has been my great fortune and a true honor to be a narcotic officer and your NNOAC President. I have been so truly blessed to have been given a front-row seat in one of the greatest and noblest professions on earth. My friendships and shared experiences with you have enriched my life far beyond any dreams I ever imagined while growing up on the farm so many years ago. I have enjoyed an incredible career. I thank you for being a part of that.

I wish for each of you good luck, good fortune, and righteous courage as you take on the challenges, risks, and responsibilities you will encounter as you work to protect the citizens of our great Country. Even considering the critical problems we face, I ask you to always remember that it is a privilege to live in these United States of America that so many of our brave brothers and sisters have served, sacrificed, and died for. Please continue to support your law enforcement partners, the NNOAC, and its leaders, too – because some days, those people and the Good Lord are the only ones that have your back.

Always be safe and look out for each other,

Bob Bushman



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001

www.nnoac.com

Conference Rescheduled

January 6, 2022

Dear NNOAC Members, Partners and Friends,

After serious consideration of the impact of recent increased COVID restrictions in the city of Washington, DC, the NNOAC Board has decided to postpone the upcoming NNOAC Delegates Conference scheduled for January 29-February 1, 2022. We know that this decision is an inconvenience for many – ourselves included, but the recent COVID restrictions aimed at stemming the rapidly spreading COVID Omicron variant there, coupled with the potential for further restrictions, have resulted in preventing some members and invited speakers from attending the Conference. Considering those factors, we believe that we will be unable to host our annual Conference as it is currently scheduled.

After consultation with the staff at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill, ***we have rescheduled the conference to July 23-26, 2022.*** We will send out the revised registration and hotel reservation information as soon as it is available, and we will also post it on the NNOAC website at www.nnoac.com.

You must contact the Hotel to cancel any reservations you have made for the January/February 2022 conference. To do so, call 1-800-HILTON. Please be prepared to provide your confirmation number.

We hope that you will join us in July, and if you plan to do so, we will hold your registration fee for that conference. For those who cannot attend in July, we will gladly refund your paid registration fees. To have your registration refunded, please contact our NNOAC Treasurer, Phil Little at: plittle@nnoac.com.

After over two years of dealing with the impact of the COVID pandemic, most of us thought it would have been over by now. It is not, and it is even more difficult to predict what the future holds. The NNOAC will move ahead with our Conference plans, but as, or if conditions change, we will adjust our plans accordingly, our priority being the safety and best interests of you, our members and our partners.

Please contact me or any of the NNOAC Board members if you have any questions or issues to discuss. I hope to see you at the NNOAC DC Delegates Conference in July.

Bob Bushman
NNOAC President





NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001

www.nnoac.com

December 22, 2021

***Addressing President Joe Biden
& Attorney General Garland***

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Merrick Garland
U.S. Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear President Biden and Attorney General Garland,

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) represents our nation's State Narcotic Officers' Associations and their thousands of members. We join our colleagues at the California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA) in opposing the plan by San Francisco Mayor London Breed and the San Francisco Supervisors to establish drug consumption sites in San Francisco. Not only are such sites illegal, but they will also draw more drug abusers, criminals, and crime into the areas where they will be allowed to operate. Crime and drug deaths will increase at the expense of decreased public safety.

Last week, I saw several videos and news articles regarding Mayor Breed's comments about getting tougher on the crime that is plaguing her city and its residents. While I applaud those efforts, it will be difficult for crime fighting efforts to succeed if San Francisco proceeds with plans to fund and operate drug consumption sites in their city. That will be an invitation to for more drug abusers and criminals to come to San Francisco at a time when the city cannot protect its businesses and citizens from the crime it is currently experiencing.

The terms "safe consumption site" and "safe injection site" are misnomers – using or injecting illegal drugs is never safe, as evidenced by the plan to include monitors at the consumption sites to supervise drug use. If drug consumption sites will be safe, why are monitors needed? Enabling and pandering to drug users does nothing to decrease drug abuse, save lives or improve public safety.

Proponents' claims that consumption sites will reduce drug overdose deaths are simply not true. An in-depth review of statistics from other cities and countries that have experimented with consumption/injection sites reveal significant increases in drug deaths, drug abuse and crime. For example, the British Columbia Coroners Services reported that, after eighteen years of operations of such a site in Vancouver, there was about a 1,000% increase in drug overdose deaths, rising from 172 to 1723. Now the vicinity of the Vancouver injection site has

become a center of drug trafficking, drug use, and criminal activities. Only a small percentage of the drug users use the injection site regularly, while most drug users ignore the injection site, defeating the intended purpose.

The situation is similar in Australia and Europe. According to the European Center for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMDDA), overdose drug deaths doubled five years after the introduction of injection sites in the Netherlands and they were more than double again, twenty years later. Only seven of the 49 European Countries have injection sites, numbering around 75, mostly in the Netherlands and Portugal, and they too, report problems of attracting drug users, drug trafficking and criminal activity. These are not success stories.

Another reason for concern is the recent announcement that over 100,000 people in America lost their lives to drug poisonings and overdoses during the past year. Many thousands more succumbed to addiction or were victims of drug-fueled violent crime. And those numbers are still increasing. That is inexcusable, and our NNOAC members and partners believe that many of those deaths are preventable. Our Country can decrease drug abuse to avoid many of those deaths. We have done it before, but it requires bold initiative and a firm resolve. Yet, while most of our nation's drug policy is aimed at drug addiction and treatment, it seems to disregard the role that vigorous support and enforcement of drug laws contribute to reducing drug availability, an important factor that can prevent people from becoming addicted in the first place.

Allowing consumption sites to operate will not result in reducing drug abuse, addiction, or deaths. As proven in the other places, those numbers will increase, posing even greater threats to our citizens. Even though we have enacted federal drug laws to protect our citizens, as San Francisco moves ahead with their consumption site program in violation of those laws, we see no visible effort on the part of our government to prevent them from doing it. Why are San Francisco and other cities free to disregard the law? Maybe the better question is, what laws will they choose to ignore tomorrow?

Drug consumption sites will further compromise public safety at a time when many law enforcement agencies are stretched beyond their capacity. Drug users pose significant risks to the health and safety of the law enforcement officers, EMS workers, and medical personnel that respond to deal with persons that are under the influence of dangerous drugs. Consumption sites are also a magnet for many of the behaviors that increase instances of COVID infections due to the latest variant. We should learn from the grim facts of the Vancouver injection site, which, according to reports there, has the highest COVID infection rate in all of western Canada. Cities like San Francisco, beleaguered by drug abuse and crime, should implement programs that will improve, not decrease, the quality of life and safety that their citizens deserve, that businesses seek, and visitors expect.

All levels of government have a responsibility to do much more to prevent the deaths of so many people each year from drug abuse. The NNOAC urges you to enforce our federal drug laws, and to prevent San Francisco and other cities from putting more Americans at risk of addiction and death due to government sanctioned drug abuse through their illegal drug consumption and drug injection site programs.

Sincerely,



Bob Bushman
President, NNOAC

***Note from Editor:
Based on a plan to produce drug consumption sites
in San Francisco, the preceding letter was also addressed
to the Mayor London Breed and the San Francisco City
Board of Supervisors.***



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION
455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001
www.nnoac.com

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Maggie Hassan, Chair
The Honorable Rand Paul, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD - SENATE HSGAC FIELD HEARING: "ADDRESSING THE EVOLVING THREAT OF ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING TO OUR COMMUNITIES"

Dear Chairwoman Hassan and Ranking Member Paul,

On behalf of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), I would like to provide this statement for the record about policy responses to the evolving drug trafficking threat in America. Thank you very much for convening this hearing and highlighting the importance of addressing this issue.

At the outset, it is critical to acknowledge that substance use disorders and violent crime do not discriminate by political party, race, gender, economic status, or zip code. Everyone is affected, everyone is vulnerable, everyone is at risk.

While the recent announcement that over 100,000 Americans have died from drug poisonings during the past year was not news to our nation's narcotic officers, it was a shock to many in our society. Fentanyl, synthetic opioids, methamphetamine, and other deadly poisons are taking a huge toll on American lives and culture.

The illegal business enterprises that are manufacturing and distributing those poisons in each of our communities bear primary responsibility for killing our fellow citizens, and they remain the biggest threat to our collective well-being. The NNOAC and our law enforcement partners have been warning about this for years and urging aggressive law enforcement action, yet we have all but been ignored.

While policymakers have rightly pushed a lot more resources over the past decade into treating those who suffer from substance use disorders, we still have a skyrocketing death rate. Clearly, law enforcement – drug enforcement in particular – must be re-embraced and fully resourced so that we can play a more significant role in curtailing the threat to our country.

While we find inexcusable the relative ease with which Mexican cartels and transnational drug trafficking organizations transport drugs across our porous borders, we are simply stunned by the amount of control they are allowed to exert, and the control they have been allowed to wield over drug distribution and violent crime *inside* our borders when they arrive.

By our government's definition, Mexican drug cartels and transnational drug trafficking organizations meet the criteria to be designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and they should be treated as such. That would allow for more resources to be leveled against their deadly activities, and additional tools would enable their assets to be frozen and forfeited, causing major disruptions to their criminal enterprises.

Efforts to increase and improve border security, to identify and interdict illegal drug trafficking activity, and to prevent known criminals and their associates from entering our country must become an even greater priority. It is way past time for our government to take back control of our borders to keep drug traffickers, their poisons, and their criminal organizations out of our country.

Our government has the all the legal authority it needs to do what is necessary to protect our citizens. It is a matter of choice for our top policymakers in the administration and in Congress to prioritize resources for this purpose. Current data clearly show that policy and budget choices in recent years have gotten us nowhere, and in fact have made things worse. It's time to make different choices.

Our national drug policy is failing miserably. Changes to state and federal laws and policies – including legalization of some drugs – have made it easier for drug traffickers to avoid arrest and prosecution at the expense of thousands of American families that continue to be victimized by them. Yet, drug law enforcement is scorned and continually criticized for our efforts to protect our citizens.

Aggressive, smart, targeted drug enforcement is needed now more than ever. We must change course and pass laws that hold drug offenders accountable and keep chronic violators and repeat offenders away from the communities that they continue to victimize. We also must pass budgets that enable law enforcement to effectively investigate, interdict, and prosecute traffickers and efficiently share criminal intelligence and information.

Congress should ensure that federal grant programs including Byrne JAG are focused on enabling multijurisdictional task force efforts. Congress should also increase funding for the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) program and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, both of which directly support local and state efforts to target drug trafficking in our communities.

Until our borders are secure, source countries are sanctioned for their complicity, and trafficking organizations and their actors are prosecuted and punished for their murderous activities, the flow of drugs into the United States will continue and our citizens and their families will continue to needlessly suffer tragic loss of human life.

It is time for Congress and our leaders to stop kicking the can down the road and start to get serious about re-investing in collaborative law enforcement efforts to stop the needless increases in drug deaths. Every day our NNOAC members go to work trying to save lives and protect our

communities while often being ridiculed by those who oppose the very idea of enforcing laws that are designed to protect our citizens.

We ask that Congress step up and support our efforts, pass effective laws and policies that we need to reduce drug deaths, and finally bring an end to the terrible toll that drug trafficking organizations are inflicting on our country.

The NNOAC and our members know the ground truth in every community across the country. We want to serve as a resource to you and your colleagues as you evaluate legislative and policy options to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Bushman
President
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

LETTER FROM NNOAC VICE-PRESIDENT ERIC BROWN

Our Annual NNOAC Delegates Meeting and Conference will be quickly approaching at the end of July, 2022 in Washington D.C. As some may know, NNOAC President Bob Bushman has announced that he will not be running for another term. Bob's contributions to the NNOAC over the many years could never be summed up in a brief few paragraphs. Our organization will miss him greatly. As your Vice President, it is my intention to run for election as the next President of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition.

My career started in December, 2003 at the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Lancaster, Ohio which is my "Home Town" and where I still reside. During my seventeen years with the office, I held many different positions including two assignments in the Narcotics Division. When leaving in the year 2000 I was the Lieutenant over the Training Academy and S.W.A.T. Team. In 2001 I was appointed to the "Major Crimes Unit" a multi-jurisdictional drug task force that covered Southeast Ohio through the Office of Criminal Justice Services and Department of Public Safety. The last ten years of service as the Commander of the unit. During

that period, I was involved with the Ohio Narcotics Officers Associations and Executive Board positions.

The year 2015 brought me to my current position of Deputy Director of the Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Program through the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

I was first introduced to the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition in 2003, and have actively been involved as being a Delegate for Ohio. In 2016 I was elected Secretary of the NNOAC, and then Vice-President, and have served in that capacity on the NNOAC Executive Board since.



It would be an honor to earn your trust and support in July at the annual delegates meeting by being elected President of the NNOAC.

We have much to accomplish...

Best Regards,

Eric

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DELEGATE & ASSOCIATE

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FOR ATTENDEES**
Fill Out This Form, Save &
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ONE FORM FOR EACH
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\$250 PER MEMBER/ASSOCIATES
\$300 ASSOCIATE ATTENDEE
ADVANCE REGISTRATION PROVIDES AN ACCURATE
NUMBER ATTENDING FOR HOTEL PLANNING

DID YOU REGISTER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING
PLEASE CHECK

YES NO

2022 DC DELEGATE MEETING

The Hilton Washington Hotel 525 New Jersey, NW, Washington, DC 20001

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022 THRU TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

HILL VISITS WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022 AND THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

\$250.00 ADVANCE FEE FOR MEMBERS STAYING AT THE HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL

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Cell Phone:

*(Click on page to bring you to fillable form
with link to Hotel reservation)*

DELEGATE/ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Association Name:

Address

Phone

Membership Size:

Position in Assoc.

Voting Delegate

Send Email to:

Association Web Site

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AFTER JULY 10, 2022, REGISTRATION IS \$300.00 PER ATTENDEE.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE NNOAC

Send to Phil Little, NNOAC treasurer

c/o MAGLOCLLEN, 140 Terry Drive, Suite 100, Newton, PA 18940 Send

Registration Forms to Terry Bannigan, Training Specialist

Please submit via E-mail:

tbannigan@magloclen.riss.net

or FAX Registration to: (215) 504-4927

**Save AS - completed form and
E-mail to Terry**

Hilton Washington Hotel Room Reservations: 202-628-2100

2022 Room rate is \$239.00 single/double

This rate good from Friday, July 22, 2022 thru Thursday, July 28, 2022

Hilton Registration Link

Did you pay for the February Delegate Meeting

Visit www.nnoac.com to pay by credit card for registration

The Objectively Reasonable Officer

AKA Callahan's Corner

By John M. "Mike" Callahan, Jr.

Originally published on PoliceOne.com



With permission to reprint given to NNOAC
by PoliceOne.com
[Link to article online](#)
[Mike Callahan](#)

FEDERAL APPELLATE COURT APPROVES A SPLIT-SECOND POLICE SHOOTING OF AN ARMED DRUG DEALER

*The decision in this case demonstrates
the incredible value to American law
enforcement of Graham v. Connor -- Sept. 2020*



On the afternoon of July 2, 2014, Joseph Valverde arranged with Rodriguez, an undercover deputy sheriff with the Adams County (Colorado) Sheriff's Office to purchase two kilos of cocaine at a public park in Denver, Colorado. Valverde had previously sold guns illegally to Rodriguez, including an AK-47 rifle.

At the conclusion of the drug sale, a Denver Police Department (DPD) SWAT team was assigned to arrest Valverde. SWAT officers were told in a pre-arrest briefing that Valverde had a gang connection, had previously sold illegal firearms and was known to carry a firearm. DPD Officer Dodge was the SWAT team leader. The team included five other officers and a K-9. Dodge was the driver of the unmarked SWAT van.

At the time of the incident, Deputy Rodriguez gave the bust signal and the SWAT van moved in to arrest Valverde. When the van pulled up, Valverde and Rodriguez were standing on a sidewalk facing toward the park's parking lot. Directly in front of them was an open parking space. The parking spaces to the immediate right and left of the open space were occupied with vehicles, one of which belonged to the undercover deputy. The SWAT van pulled up and stopped partially in front of the open space.

The SWAT team deployed from the van and an officer threw a flashbang device, which exploded. SWAT leader Dodge exited the van from the driver's side door armed with his semi-auto carbine. One or more officers ordered Valverde to raise his hands and get down. Valverde did not immediately comply and jumped slightly backward in reaction to the flash bang. Although the officers did not identify themselves, they were wearing SWAT-style green uniforms and their tactical vests contained a DPD badge and the word "Police" on the chest.

Valverde next moved slightly forward and slid to his left, stopping next to the right front tire of a parked vehicle. Valverde faced Officer Dodge who was close by. Dodge saw that Valverde kept grabbing for something in his pocket or waistband. Other surrounding officers saw this as well. Suddenly, Valverde pulled out a firearm in his right hand at waist level. Dodge and some of the other officers saw the gun.

continued on next page

Split Second Decision, cont.

Less than a second later Officer Dodge fired five shots at Valverde in rapid succession. Three shots struck Valverde – one in his right chest, a second to the back of his right elbow and a third to his right back. Dodge did not warn Valverde of his intent to shoot. None of the other SWAT officers fired. About four seconds elapsed from Dodge’s exiting the SWAT van to Valverde being shot and falling to the ground. Valverde was killed and his Estate sued Officer Dodge pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983, alleging excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

During the incident, the FBI deployed a plane and conducted aerial surveillance of the situation. Video footage, without sound, was recorded of the entire event. In the lawsuit, the Plaintiff alleged that the FBI video shows Valverde never pointed his gun at Dodge or any officer, voluntarily discarded his gun to the ground while still standing and raised his hands up near his head, all in one motion prior to being shot.

The Federal District Court rejected Officer Dodge’s assertion of the qualified immunity defense, finding multiple factual disputes that could not be resolved by the aerial video footage. Viewing the disputed facts in favor of the plaintiff as required by federal court procedure in deciding a summary judgement motion, the court ruled that the decedent “discarded his firearm and complied, or was in the process of complying ,, before Officer Dodge shot him.” Dodge appealed the ruling to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Circuit court reversed and ruled in favor of officer Dodge. [1]

ANALYSIS AND RULING OF THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The Tenth Circuit stated that its analysis would be based upon the Plaintiff’s version of events but would be supplemented with clear evidence from the available video footage.

The court stated it would analyze Dodge’s conduct as to whether he acted with “objective reasonableness” from a “totality of the circumstances” perspective. This requires judgement from the “perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with 20/20 vision of hindsight.” [2]

Further the court explained that “the calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that ... officers are often forced to make split-second judgements – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.” [2]

The court observed that the Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor* [2] cited three facts of importance in the “totality of circumstances” analysis:

The severity of the crime at issue;

The immediacy of the threat of harm to the officer or others;

Whether the suspect resisted arrest or attempted to flee.

The court noted that of these three factors, the most important and significant factor is clearly how immediate the threat of serious physical harm was to the officer or others.

The Tenth Circuit ruled that Officer Dodge acted reasonably in shooting Valverde for the following reasons:

Officer Dodge was told at the pre-event briefing that Valverde had been selling weapons and dealing with large quantities of illegal drugs. Although the court did not mention it at this point in its opinion, the court’s earlier iteration of the facts mentioned that Valverde was known to carry firearms and had a gang affiliation.

Dodge saw the barrel of a handgun as Valverde pulled it from his waistband or pocket. The court opined, “To wait to see what Valverde would do with the weapon could be fatal.” The court ruled that “the law permitted Dodge to fire as soon as he saw the gun in Valverde’s hand.”

The court observed that Dodge fired immediately and stated, “The sound of [Dodge’s] first shot was less than a second after Valverde pulled out his gun. The sound of his last shot was a mere second after the first.”

The court pointed out that Dodge could not wait to see what Valverde intended to do with his firearm and explained, “Perhaps a suspect is just pulling out a weapon to discard it rather than to fire it. But waiting to find out what the suspect planned to do with the weapon could be suicidal.”

The court reviewed the FBI video and ruled that “no jury could doubt that Dodge made his decision to fire before he could have realized that Valverde was surrendering (by dropping his gun and raising his hands). The video disclosed that Valverde did not move to discard his firearm until about a half a second before Dodge fired his first shot and did not begin to raise his hands until a quarter second before Dodge’s first shot.

The court concluded by stating, “Dodge’s decision to shoot...is exactly the type of split second judgement, made in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving circumstances, that courts do not like to second guess using the 20/20 hindsight found in the comfort of a judge’s chambers.”

CONCLUSION

The decision in this case demonstrates the incredible value to American law enforcement found in the clear guidance and direction provided to the lower federal courts by the United States Supreme Court in its *Graham v Connor* decision.

The Tenth Circuit’s Valverde decision is a prime example of what the Supreme Court described in *Graham* when it spoke about officers needing to make split-second judgements

in tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving highly dangerous circumstances. Officer Dodge saw Valverde produce a gun. He fired five shots in less than two seconds. He had no time to wait to see what Valverde's intention was. His split-second decision to shoot was foreseen and approved by the Supreme Court in Graham years before it happened.

The Graham standard for the use of deadly force by law enforcement is under attack by anti-police forces in America. [3] Law enforcement departments, agencies and associations should resist these efforts and oppose those seeking to abolish this critical standard.

References

1. Valverde v. Dodge, (No. 19-1255) (10th Cir. 2020).
2. Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989).
3. See, California Assembly Bill (AB) 392 enacted into

law on August 19, 2019. This statute changes the California law enforcement deadly force standard from "objective reasonableness" to "necessary" in defense of human life.

About the author

John Michael Callahan served in law enforcement for 44 years. His career began as a special agent with NCIS. He became an FBI agent and served in the FBI for 30 years, retiring in the position of supervisory special agent/chief division counsel. He taught criminal law/procedure at the FBI Academy. After the FBI, he served as a Massachusetts Deputy Inspector General and is currently a deputy sheriff for Plymouth County, Massachusetts. He is the author of two published books on deadly force and an upcoming book on supervisory and municipal liability in law enforcement.

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The graphic features a white background with a yellow border. At the top, the text "DON'T BE THE DEALER" is written in large, bold, blue and red letters. Below this, three groups of red and blue capsules are shown, each with a yellow bracket above it and a label: "LOST", "STOLEN", and "MISUSED". At the bottom, there is a red and blue logo for "DEA NATIONAL Rx TAKEBACK" and a line of text: "Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back." At the very bottom, it says "Visit DEATakeBack.com for a collection site near you."

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Case Study

Raman Spectroscopy: Seeing drugs in a whole new light

In Kentucky, law enforcement officers and the Kentucky State Police Forensic Laboratories have gained a new ally in their battle against the proliferation of illicit and dangerous drugs in their state. It's called the Thermo Scientific™ TruNarc™ Narcotics Analyzer, and more than a dozen drug task force agencies across Kentucky are currently using it, with nearly 40 units in use throughout the state. It's a portable, hand-held electronic device, and it has become popular with its users because it can analyze and identify a multitude of drugs and other substances in the field in a matter of seconds and do so with high accuracy and precision. Best of all, it doesn't require actual contact with the substances themselves, because it is able to identify most of them even through their packaging. Also, it does not consume or destroy any of the substance being tested in the process. In addition, and perhaps even more critically, it also helps keep officers safe. According to Todd Young, the deputy director of the Bowling Green-Warren County Drug Task Force, "A lot of times when you had to do a field test, you had to take the substance out of its package. Now we don't have to do that, so that limits our officers'

exposure to potentially harmful substances."

Kentucky's problems with illicit drugs aren't terribly different from those of other states. Currently, the primary drugs encountered include Fentanyl, Heroin, Cocaine, Methamphetamines,



"TruNarc Narcotics Analyzer, is used by more than a dozen drug task force agencies across Kentucky. "



TuNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer

and Marijuana. These make up 95% of the total volume of illicit drugs interdicted, according to Jeremy Triplett, Drug Section Supervisor with the Kentucky State Police Forensic Laboratories. But by far the biggest and fastest-growing problem he says is 'Crystal Meth' (methamphetamine).

Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant. 'Crystal Meth' is a form of the drug that resembles glass fragments or shiny, bluish-white rocks. It is chemically similar to amphetamine, a drug used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. Other common names for methamphetamine include blue, crystal, ice, meth, and speed. The drug can be easily made in small clandestine laboratories, with relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients such as pseudoephedrine, a common ingredient in cold medications. Methamphetamine production also involves a number of other very dangerous chemicals.

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The interception of Crystal Meth and other illegal drugs has become a severe policing problem worldwide. It is difficult for law enforcement personnel in the field to at least initially identify any particular substance as likely being a prohibited one. This can lead to false arrests or releasing suspects who are indeed carrying illegal drugs. While a properly equipped lab can make a definitive analysis, typical lab equipment does not lend itself to use by law enforcement personnel in the field because it is either too heavy, cumbersome, difficult to operate, or too expensive to distribute widely to large numbers of law enforcement personnel.



Colorimetric Analysis Methods

Prior to the availability of the TruNarc, law enforcement in Kentucky utilized common wet-chemistry test kits to identify narcotics in the field. Relatively easy to use, these kits call for a series of dilutions, where officers must interpret color changes in order to correctly identify a substance. This is known as Colorimetric Analysis. Colorimetric analysis is a method of determining the concentration of a chemical element or chemical compound in a solution with the aid of a color reagent. It is applicable to both organic compounds and inorganic compounds and may be used with or without an enzymatic stage. The method is widely used in medical laboratories and for industrial purposes, e.g. the analysis of water samples in connection with industrial water treatment. But colorimetric testing is not very specific; it is not always reliable, and only effective for a very narrow range of certain known drugs and not for other chemicals or substances such as newer synthetic drug compounds. More importantly, test results from the colorimetric do not always support probable cause in charging a drug suspect. Instead, all suspect samples collected from alleged offenders often must be transported considerable distances to a properly-equipped laboratory facility. Colorimetric test kits can often identify 'classes' of compounds rather than specific substances, so it is an imperfect field analysis method; but that was before the TruNarc narcotics analyzer and Raman spectroscopy.

Raman Spectroscopy: A Better Way

The TruNarc narcotics analyzer uses Raman spectroscopy – essentially a laser light beam – to analyze substances, and it does not need to be in direct contact with them; it can 'see' through the packaging material generally if it is translucent. Raman spectroscopy is a technique used to determine vibrational modes of molecules, and thus accurately and precisely identify specific substances that these molecules comprise. Raman Spectroscopy is based upon the interaction of light with the chemical bonds within a material.

Raman spectroscopy relies on inelastic scattering of monochromatic light (e.g., laser) which changes the excitation states of the molecules, which will then emit light. Each material emits its own specific Raman spectrum. As each specimen 'fluoresces' in the Raman range, it emits a unique 'Raman signature' that permits the specimen to be identified and characterized. This spectrum of light is analyzed with a spectrometer and then this wavelength signature is compared with a library of known Raman signatures in order to identify the precise identity of the specimen. This is why a TruNarc narcotics analyzer can accurately identify hundreds of individual substances.

Using Raman technology, the TruNarc narcotics analyzer quickly identifies a wide range of illegal drugs including narcotics, synthetic drugs including methamphetamine, cutting agents, and precursor materials. Analysis is performed in a single test, portable, hand-held, on the spot, in 30 seconds or less per sample, and it is capable of identifying up to 324 prohibited substances and can scan for up to 500 total substances in a single, definitive test.

Most drug samples can be quickly identified by simply pressing the sample—contained in a plastic bag, for example—against the nose cone and then pressing the 'scan' button. Typically, samples are identified in less than 30 seconds.

Conclusion

"The TruNarc technique is highly sensitive, but it is likewise robust, a much stronger and safer technique than the old Colorimetric system," Triplett says, "And because it is so much faster, it's also a powerful forensic backlog management tool. Its high throughput capability makes it very effective in the reduction of such backlogs in the labs."

DFAF Innovates Prevention Messaging for the 21st Century Global Audience

By Drug-Free America Foundation

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. (DFAF) has taken communicating substance abuse prevention messaging to the next level by utilizing cutting edge strategies to reach audiences through digital marketing technology. As part of a recent project, DFAF developed and produced a four-part video series that was created in partnership with the Colombo Plan with support from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

This video project wasn't DFAF's first venture in implementing a cross-platform digital advertising campaign. The Marijuana...Know the Truth campaign featured a movie theatre and digital advertising campaign that examined the connection between marijuana use and opioid abuse and overdose. It also pushed back on the false narrative that marijuana use is benign or even safe.

The campaign featured a thirty-second video that ran for 10-weeks in select movie theatres throughout the country. The video introduced Karen Bailey, who told the story of how her son started smoking marijuana in middle school and how his marijuana use turned into an opioid addiction that ultimately took his life. An extended two-minute video was also produced and viewed by thousands of visitors driven to the DFAF website through a retargeting advertising campaign.

In social media advertising, measurements of success can be measured through "impressions" and "clicks." Impressions represent the number of times that content is delivered and viewed on a person's feed. Clicks measure the number of times a person interacted with the ad or content by clicking on it.

By those standards alone, the campaign exceeded all expectations. The movie theatre ads were shown 742,570 times and delivered 13,337,048 impressions. Additionally, an in-lobby theatre advertising campaign that was negotiated at no added cost, delivered an additional 11,310,743 impressions. Also, the cross digital advertising delivered 38,832,607 audience impressions with a click through rate to the DFAF website of over .5 percent, significantly higher than industry standards. And lastly, the campaign initiated a retargeting campaign that re-engaged visitors that had come to the DFAF website. That effort served 379,000 impressions and generated 121,000 additional visits to the DFAF website.

Because of the campaign's success, DFAF won the prestigious Telly Award for Online Commercials in the category of Social Responsibility.

DFAF's recent project was to address the global drug problem by producing four animated short videos on counter narcotics to be shared digitally with civil society members and policy makers. The videos were developed to debunk myths associated with current drug policy and use trends. Using the experience of the prior PSA campaign, the four videos were launched via a social media cross-platform campaign in a 4-week promotion for each video. The videos were also spotlighted on the DFAF website (DFAF.ORG) and shared through links on the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) website (ISSUP.NET).

The videos covered the topics of Environmental Impacts, The Impact of Drugs in the Workplace, Protective Factors, and Alternatives to Incarceration. Each video was debuted with links to additional online resources. Ultimately, they were translated into the Spanish language and marketed in selected international regions.



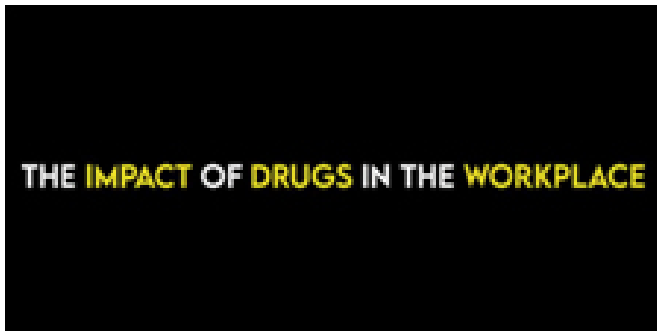
Here is an overview of the four videos:

Environmental Impacts

Globally, the natural environment faces serious challenges and degradation on a scale never before seen in human history. Illicit drug crop cultivation, drug production,

trafficking, and drug use all contribute to this degradation by accelerating loss of biodiversity, destroying sensitive natural habitats, and creating pollution. Programs that reduce cultivation, production, and demand for drugs limit the environmental damage due to the drug trade. Such programs play an important role in preserving the integrity of the natural environment essential to the continued survival of humanity.

The video released in English produced 475K impressions and 1,500 clicks, while the Spanish language version promoted in Colombia had nearly 1.2M impressions and 11K clicks.



The Impact of Drugs in the Workplace

While most employers make every effort to provide a safe and healthy workplace, substance abuse and addiction have become real threats for many of them. Data shows that in the past year, 9% of full time workers were dependent on or abused alcohol or illicit drugs translating into a decrease in morale and productivity and an increase in absenteeism and accidents causing some countries to lose billions of dollars per year.

A drug free workplace program is the most effective way to prevent alcohol and drug use on the job, giving employees the support needed to get help and assist those in recovery to maintain their sobriety. When management and staff are involved in their design, review and enforcement, they are highly effective.

The steps toward getting a drug free workplace program include assessing the needs of the workplace, developing a written policy, educating employees, training supervisors, creating an employee assistance program, and implementing a drug-testing protocol. Following these steps can dramatically improve the safety and well-being of a workforce.

The English language workplace video was launched worldwide and received almost 1.7M impressions and 20K clicks. There was also special campaign promotion in Nigeria and Kenya.

Protective Factors

Most of the people in the world who suffer from substance use disorders started using in adolescence. While there are several factors that increase the risk of developing a substance use disorder, there are many protective factors that start in childhood that can actually reduce the risk. These protective factors are characteristics within children or their environment that enable them to successfully manage and adapt to various life circumstances.

As adults, we can play a critical role in preventing youth substance use by building these protective factors throughout a child's development. Examples of protective factors include:

Building strong bonds starting in infancy through warmth, attention, support, and maintaining consistent rules and routines.

As they enter childhood, parents should engage in effective communication with children and their teachers, and be involved with school activities and homework, that will result in children earning better grades, developing better social skills, partaking in healthier activities, and avoiding risky behaviors.

In adolescence, parents and caring adults should have regular family discussions on the dangers of drug and alcohol use, and keep teens busy with healthy activities such as sports, youth clubs, or volunteering. They should also monitor their teen's friends and activities and engage in active listening to help their child remain connected to family, school, and healthy activities.

The debut of this video in English resulted in nearly 4.2M impressions and more than 30K clicks and the campaign was promoted in Uganda and Kenya.



Alternatives to Incarceration

The worldwide epidemic of substance abuse affects an estimated 35 million people globally. As a chronic disease, substance use disorders and addiction often lead those

Innovative Messaging, cont.

affected down a path of crime. It is better to address the consequences of criminal activity through rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

Alternatives to incarceration include supportive treatment and social services that often lead to a reduction in crime and recidivism, along with a reduction in the public health and safety consequences associated with drug use. Programs that keep families intact, break the cycle of addiction and reduce racial inequity are beneficial to the individual, families, society, and public health.

Some of the methods include deflection programs and drug courts that increase access to care, decrease the burden on the criminal substance, establish support for long-term recovery, cut crime rates, and save billions of dollars.

The most successful video in the series, the initial global launch in English yielded 5.2M impressions and more than 60K clicks. This campaign had promotion in Uganda and Viet Nam. The Spanish language version that was promoted in Chile and Argentina had over 8.1M impressions and also over 60K clicks.

Resources

Check out the all the short videos in English and Spanish as well as Drug Free America Foundation's additional resources, toolkits and one-pagers on the DFAF website Resource page here: <https://www.dfaf.org/resources/>.

About Drug Free America Foundation

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., based in St. Petersburg, Florida, is a national and international non-profit drug prevention and policy organization committed to developing strategies that prevent drug use and promote sustained recovery. The Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. vision is a world where all people live free of the burden of drug abuse. Drug Free America Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Contact DFAF at info@dfaf.org

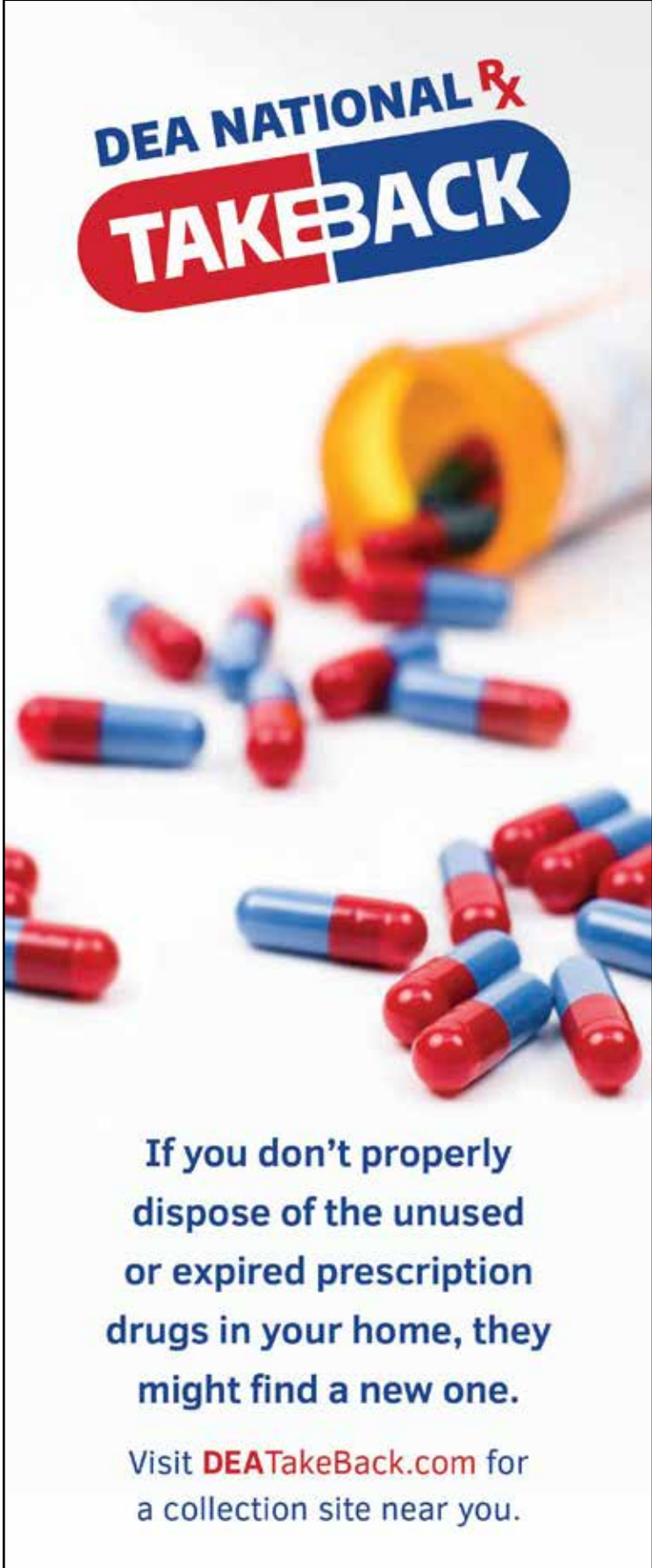
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The graphic features the 'DEA NATIONAL Rx TAKEBACK' logo at the top, with 'DEA NATIONAL' in blue and 'Rx TAKEBACK' in white on a red and blue background. Below the logo is a photograph of a tipped-over yellow pill bottle with several red and blue capsules scattered on a white surface. At the bottom, there is a blue text box with white text that reads: 'If you don't properly dispose of the unused or expired prescription drugs in your home, they might find a new one. Visit DEATakeBack.com for a collection site near you.'

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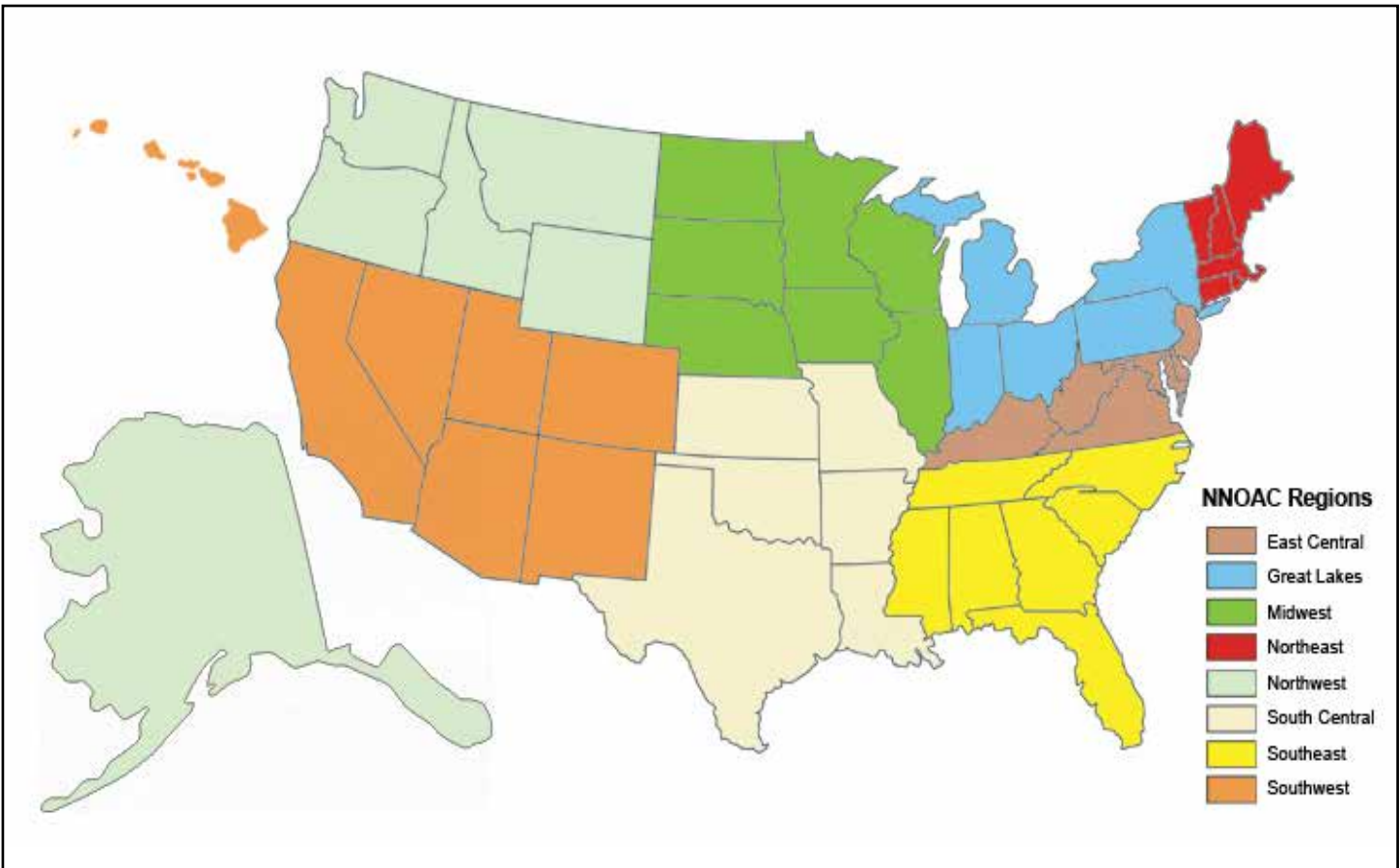


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NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

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It has certainly been an interesting two years. The New England states have experienced an interesting drug abuse problem. Now every New England State has some form of legalized marijuana legislation. Many experts opposed such legislation. The progressive liberal approach – legalizing illegal drugs – created increases in loss of life, drug abuse, family breakdown, and lacking education due to drug abuse with long term effect.



Families Against Fentanyl released a report (<https://familiesagainstoffentanyl.org>) entitled “Fentanyl: The State We’re In”. Their study indicates that “Fentanyl fatalities more than doubled in 30 states in just two years, and more than tripled in 15. In six states, fentanyl fatalities increased almost five fold.”

The most alarming statistic is contained in a list titled “The 20 states with the highest rate of fentanyl deaths per capita last year”: All six New England States made the chart with ranking and total deaths in 2021. Connecticut is #8 – 1,174 deaths; Maine, #9 – 413; Rhode Island, #10 – 309; Massachusetts, #12 – 1,975; Vermont, #13 – 167; and New Hampshire, #20 – 299. Not a distinction to be proud of.

More alarming, “The 20 states with the highest total number of fentanyl deaths last year” (2021) include Massachusetts (#12) and Connecticut (#20).

Politicians were warned year after year of this problem by professionals – and yet the politicians’ actions had the opposite effect, by destroying the very communities they claim to help. Instead of helping law enforcement address this problem, legislation was passed to hinder law enforcement and discourage public safety.

WalletHub released a report ([Drug Use by State: 2021's Problem Areas \(wallethub.com\)](https://wallethub.com)) containing a chart titled “Highest Drug Use By State”. Once again, the New England States made the grade – all six within the top 30.

What I found interesting in the report is that every state that has legalized marijuana is among the worst states for drug abuse. Connecticut had the distinction of ranking 4th for the “Most People Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment per 100,000 Drug Users.” The study was conducted by a list of impressive medical professionals.

The New England area is experiencing just about every kind drug of abuse as the rest of the nation. They are counterfeit Fentanyl-laced opiates, Fentanyl, Heroin, Cocaine, Meth, and, of course, marijuana. [Editor’s Note: I placed an article regarding counterfeit medication in this issue.]

Overdoses Up

More than 100,000 people died in 2021 from drug (murder) overdoses. It is sad that, over a period of years, law enforcement and professional experts repeatedly warned officials and the public about the drug problem – and the answer we got was to increase the availability of drugs. No direction, no plan, and no addressing of the real elephant in the room – the liberal availability of drugs that create the problem, including open borders. Yes, instead of actually dealing with the causes of the problem, the American Rescue Plan stimulus included \$4 billion dollars for substance use and mental health programs. Isn’t that akin to closing the barn door after the horse has escaped?

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OREGON

On November 3, 2020, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 110, which decriminalized the possession of certain amounts of controlled substances, also known as The Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act. Measure 110 makes personal non-commercial possession of a controlled substance no more than a Class E violation (max fine of \$100). In lieu of a fine, a person charged with a violation may instead complete a health assessment at an AddictionRecovery Center. [Background-Brief-Measure-110-\(2020\).pdf \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](https://oregonlegislature.gov/Measure-110-(2020).pdf)



In a Measure 110 review from February 1 to June 30, 2021, the State of Oregon Judicial Department found that 1085 citations were issued throughout the state, 68% for methamphetamine and 20% for heroin. Of those cases, 65% resulted in convictions, 31% are pending, and 4% were dismissed – but 400 of those suspects failed

to appear. Not surprisingly, only 3 out of the 1085 suspects opted to take the treatment assessment.

Oregon continues to become soft on drug laws. On September 29, 2021, the Oregon Court of Appeals overruled *State v. Boyd* in *State v. Hubbell*. Under *Boyd*, a person is guilty of an attempt to commit a crime when the person intentionally engages in conduct which constitutes a substantial step toward commission of the crime. Under a *Boyd* delivery theory, evidence that a person possessed drugs with the intent to sell them constituted a substantial step towards the crime of delivery and was sufficient to support a conviction for delivery. In *Hubbell*, the Court of Appeals overruled *Boyd*, concluding that an “attempted transfer” for the crime of delivery requires evidence of an “unsuccessful or incomplete” transfer — that is, “an unsuccessful effort to cause the controlled substances to pass from one person to another.” The court went on to hold that evidence that a person has acquired drugs for future transfer may constitute the crime of attempted delivery. This lowers the crime category substantially when building a suspect’s criminal history.

In October 2021, Jackson County in Southern Oregon declared a local state of emergency due to threats to public health and safety from illegal marijuana production. The Mail Tribune (Medford, OR) on October 13, 2021, reported, “Commissioners said a boom in illegal marijuana has overwhelmed the ability of law enforcement, code enforcement, and irrigation water regulators to enforce local and state laws.” (“Jackson County declares marijuana emergency”, <https://www.mailtribune.com/top-stories/2021/10/13/jackson-county-declares-marijuana-emergency/>) (updated Oct. 14, 2021).

The same article reported additional information from the Commissioners’ emergency declaration, including the following: “Since recreational marijuana was legalized by the voters of Oregon in the November 2014 general election, the illegal and unlawful production of marijuana in our county has overwhelmed the ability of our county and state regulators to enforce relevant laws in our community,” Jackson County Commissioner Rick Dyer said in a video

press conference Wednesday.

“Law enforcement in Jackson County reports a 59% increase in calls for service associated with the marijuana industry, including burglary, theft, assault, robbery and nuisance crimes,” Dyer said. “And there’s also significant evidence of narco-slavery, forced labor, human trafficking, immigration issues, squalid and unsafe living conditions and exploitation and abuse of workers, child welfare issues and animal abuse.”

Water complaints skyrocketed from 39 in 2015 to 195 so far this year. Employees expect they’ll get 275 complaints by the end of 2021, Dyer said.

A follow-up article detailed many of the various burdens and obstacles faced by law enforcement and regulators due to the illegal marijuana production. (“Illegal marijuana overwhelms enforcement efforts”, <https://www.mailtribune.com/top-stories/2021/10/27/illegal-marijuana-overwhelms-enforcement-efforts/>) (updated 10/28/21)

WASHINGTON

The Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association (WSNIA) continues to thrive. In April 2021, we had our four-day Training Summit and Vendor Show at the Coeur d’Alene Resort, and by all accounts it was a huge success.

Crime is increasing exponentially throughout the state, especially in the larger metropolitan areas of the Puget Sound, where “defund the police” movements and legislative restrictions have tied the hands of law enforcement, preventing them from being able to protect their communities as they historically have. Staffing levels are at critical levels and many agencies are shutting down their proactive units and task forces.

Probable cause is now required for all use of force, which has effectively stopped proactive enforcement. There are agencies in the state which have halted all search warrant services. Entering a premises and pointing a weapon or handcuffing an individual unrelated to the investigation, is now excessive use of force. The legislature created a civilian panel with the authority to investigate and review all claims of excessive use of force. The panel can decertify officers they deem have used excessive force in their eyes. There are no standardized use of force guidelines at the state level, and this has left law enforcement with no clear guidance.

The good news is that the public is beginning to push back, and even members of the legislature now know they went too far. There is hope that the legislature will provide clarity, roll back, and restore legal authority to maintain law and order. We also hope they will restore all the less-lethal options that were taken away last session.

Washington continues to be inundated with counterfeit prescription pills containing Fentanyl. Overdose deaths



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

were up over 30% in 2020 and are trending much higher in 2021. Mass overdose events are common and often involve minors. The legislature effectively legalized all drug possession, which has had a devastating impact on our state. Drug courts are closing due to a lack of drug possession arrests, and treatment centers are closing due to the lack of referrals from the courts.

Methamphetamine is abundant, and prices continue to fall due to the wide-open Mexico border. Meth is responsible for most overdose deaths in Washington.

WSNIA has hired a lobbyist to educate and bring attention to our legislature on the devastating impacts of decriminalization. The intent of the legislature was to encourage more treatment instead of incarceration; however, their lack of understanding of the realities on the streets has led to the exact opposite occurring. One officer quoted an individual, who is struggling with addiction, as saying that the new law “signed my death warrant, because I will never seek treatment until I’m forced to.”

IDAHO DRUG TRENDS:

In the past few years, Idaho has seen a spike in population, which can be attributed to our affordable residential prices and conservative, pro-law enforcement handling of crimes and homelessness. Unfortunately, the rise in population has also brought a rise in drug distribution and consumption.

During 2020, COVID lockdowns slowed the number of illegal drug crimes and spiked the price of illegal narcotics. However, it seems that the illegal drug world has bounced back to normal.

In 2021, Idaho saw a significant increase in fentanyl. What was once a very rare drug to hear about in Idaho has become an everyday topic. In almost all cases now, there is a mention of the fake oxy 30 pills, which are known to contain fentanyl. When the pills first started getting pumped into Idaho’s drug community, users thought they were purchasing oxycodone 30mg tablets. This naiveté led to a dramatic uptick in overdose deaths. Once it was discovered that the pills were counterfeit and known to contain fentanyl, they became a permanent staple in Idaho’s drug community. The price for the pills ranges from \$10-20 per pill, with a decrease in price as the quantity purchased goes up. When analyzed by state or federal labs, fentanyl analogs are also found in the pills, which helps when prosecuting federally.

Unfortunately, overdose deaths continue to burden the local communities and their resources.

In the past couple of months, Idaho – and especially Idaho’s capital metro area – has also seen the increase in fentanyl powder. As with the pills, it had been incredibly rare to hear of a local dealer who would sell powder. But now it seems that every other case involves a dealer selling fentanyl powder. As all law enforcement agencies across the county are aware, this creates a very dangerous and potentially fatal situation for law enforcement, from patrol officers to undercovers.

And the latest new trend that is slowly starting to make it into Idaho – counterfeit Adderall pills, which are pressed methamphetamine. The local dealers who are selling these appear to be unaware of what they are distributing and are under the assumption it is just Adderall. This is significant in Idaho because of our mandatory minimums. Just an ounce of methamphetamine brings a mandatory minimum of three years in prison, regardless of criminal record. However, prosecutors do work with first-time offenders on a potential lesser charge.

Heroin continues to run rampant within the drug community; however, fentanyl is now found in most heroin seized around the state. This was not the case a year or two ago. And methamphetamine can be found amongst almost all small-time users.

Most of the major distributors that Idaho is seeing are those who are willing to travel out of state to Utah, California, Arizona or Oregon. This is due to Idaho having high drug prices stemming from our still-very-strict, mandatory-minimum drug sentencing.

Southwest Region - Bob Cooke

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Great News! The Supply Chain is no longer an issue! At least not for illegal drugs, including Fentanyl, that are produced in foreign countries and imported from Mexico by the Cartels. So, what is going to be done about the more than 100,000 Fentanyl overdose/poisonings? What



is being done at the southern border? Our entire country is in distress and overrun by illegal drugs and overdose deaths.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced that she is going to build up police presence in that city's Tenderloin district.

That is the part of San Francisco that begins at the steps of City Hall and travels along the city sidewalks lined with feces and open-air drug sales and use. This is the city that lost more than double the number of people to drug overdoses than to Covid deaths. She wants to put an end to the disgusting lawlessness that is on the news every day. She has also called for the use of automated license plate readers and surveillance cameras that have not been previously allowed. Oftentimes, violent mobs of thieves have forced people to remain away from stores and shopping areas. On December 15, 2021, Mayor Breed told the media that the safety of her residents is the most important thing to her. The San Francisco County District Attorney was not at the press event. He is looking at a Democratic Party recall due to his lack of prosecutions and weak-on-crime policies. The district attorney is responsible for holding people accountable for their crimes. Mayors do not have the ability to prosecute. Without a prosecutor, the police will be very limited in their ability to hold anyone accountable for criminal acts.

Mayor Breed's public safety statements come on the heels of her own announcement to create places where drug users will be able to bring their illegal drugs and consume them without fear of arrest. In April 2021, California State Senator Scott Wiener proposed legislation (Senate Bill 57) to legalize overdose prevention programs – also known as safe consumption sites – which passed the Senate Public Safety Committee. *This is illegal under both state and federal law. But a coalition of groups, including CNOA, killed this bill.* We have reminded the members of San Francisco, the state's legislature, and governors that this hasn't worked in Vancouver, Canada, Colorado, or anywhere else. I urge every citizen of every state to stay engaged with their state legislature to prevent such nonsense. This legislation has been proposed before. But our lawmakers need to listen to those charged with maintaining the peace and safety in America. I have interviewed hundreds of drug users, worked undercover, and purchased illegal drugs including heroin, cocaine PCP, Methamphetamine, and other controlled substances. Never has a drug-addicted person told me that he/she would purchase drugs at one location and then drive, walk, or take public transportation to a "safe" place before consuming their drugs. The California Narcotic Officers'

Association and the NNOAC are weighing in on this issue and contacting California's lawmakers with sensible information to keep communities safer while addressing the illegal and harmful use of drugs.

In November 2021 the California Narcotic Officers' Association held their 57th Annual Training Institute in Reno, Nevada. The turnout was awesome. The timing was just right, even though Covid rules required mask-wearing in common areas of the venue. The NNOAC has not had any in-person meetings since Covid hit this country. CNOA had more than 1,750 law enforcement professionals from various agencies throughout California, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. We took advantage of this event to host an out-of-state reception.

During the reception, CNOA hosted delegates from these state agencies, along with teams of accomplished professionals from the Western States Information Network (WSIN), the Northern CA HIDTA/NCRIC, San Diego HIDTA, the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy, Midwest Counterdrug Training Center, Western Regional Training Center, and our great friends from Iceland. It was valuable to have all these people and associations in one place to discuss the national and regional drug issues, officer safety, and health issues, and to plan strategies to make our communities safer. NNOAC President Bob Bushman made an inspiring speech reminding everyone of their individual importance to solving crime and public health and safety issues.



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Southwest Regions Associations

The Arizona Narcotic Officers' www.aznoa.org.
Utah Narcotic Officers' Association www.unoa.org.
The Nevada Narcotic Officers Association
www.nnoa.biz.
The Colorado Drug Investigators Association
www.CDIA.us.
The California Narcotic Officers' Association
www.CNOA.org.
Get involved with your state association and stay informed.

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. – Albert Einstein

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The Southeast region is made up of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. The majority of the areas are being plagued with the same drug issues, although some areas are being hit harder with specific drug problems than other areas.

We continue to see a large increase in methamphetamine in rural areas of the Southeast and a steady increase in heroin/fentanyl in larger cities. This has been prevalent for the past couple of years, and we haven't seen much of a shift this year.

The photos depict a shipment of approximately 50 pounds of fentanyl intercepted coming into the middle Tennessee area, concealed (or actually not concealed) in two black bags placed in the sleeper of a tractor trailer.

Crystal Methamphetamine

The Southeastern region continues to see a steady flow of crystal methamphetamine into this area. There hasn't





been much of a change in crystal meth in several years as far availability and demand. The extremely cheap price of product coming into the United States continues to lead us to a surge of new dealers who have previously sold cocaine and other illicit drugs. This price is making it easier for dealers to obtain larger amounts and conduct larger deals than they would ordinarily be able to achieve. The ease of obtaining crystal meth and the cheaper price has led to this area, as well as many other areas around the United States, seeing more crystal methamphetamine than ever before. I believe that, with the open border situation, this will continue to escalate in the future.

Marijuana

We continue to see high-grade marijuana being shipped in from source states, such as California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. The so-called legal states have continued to flood the market with these drugs that are still illegal in most of the other states. We are seeing more of the illegal shipments, whether it be in parcel packages or trucking parcels. These states are taking advantage of growing their illegal drugs under the auspices of legalization in their states and then shipping out to other states, avoiding the healthy tax that is put on the marijuana. Unfortunately, many believe that legalization of drugs will cure the problems associated with drug use. The reality is that we will continue to face illegal grows and illegal transportation/shipping due to those unwilling to pay any type of taxes.

Heroin/Fentanyl

It has become synonymous to use heroin and fentanyl together. This is due largely to the fact that we see very few shipments of heroin that are not laced with fentanyl or we see shipments of heroin that are, in fact, straight fentanyl. This is a major factor in the over 100,000 overdose deaths that we have seen in the past year. I can assure you this will continue long after the pandemic; we know this, since it has been going on long before 2020. It would appear that the cartels are getting more brazen in their shipping techniques due to the open borders that we continue to see.

The Southeastern region, much like other regions, is seeing pharmaceutical look-alike pills that are, in fact, fentanyl. The pills are very similar if not exactly like pharmacy-supplied pills being purchased on the black market by unsuspecting users who think they are buying an oxycodone or even a valium pill – and this is driving up our overdose deaths. Many of these victims are first-time users

of fentanyl, and they are overdosing and ultimately dying from their mistake.

I have discussed this before and I will continue to discuss the overwhelming and much-needed attention to the pandemic. But I can't help but think of the hundreds of thousands of husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers that we have lost to overdose deaths. Unfortunately, except for a few blips now and then, most of these deaths fall by the wayside for many people – including our lawmakers

East Central Region - Tommy Loving

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Contributed by NJNEOA President Nitin Daniels

NEW JERSEY

Welcome to 2022! Cannot believe 2021 swept by so quickly! The NJNEOA is thankful to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and Middlesex County Fire Academy for providing their venues to continue our seminars. All attendees will abide by the requirements imposed upon us by these venues.

We are thankful to instructors and presenters from the various police departments, County Prosecutor's Offices, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, New Jersey State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

I remember when past president Felix Pacheco and I discussed designing a basic narcotic investigation class. With help from some of the agencies, we were able to create the Basic Tactical Narcotics Training; we are now approaching TNT Class #10, commencing on March 4, 2022. Every Basic TNT class has had a waiting list. This tells us that, by word of mouth, the news has spread that it is great training, thanks to the experienced instructors who are in the business of passing along their knowledge and expertise to others. The NJNEOA has designed the trainings and seminars which are applicable to all law enforcement officers and NOT just detectives assigned to the narcotics unit.

For the yearly \$40.00 membership fee, the NJNEOA guarantees you three seminars and the Annual Conference. When I look at the training flyers of other private companies, I am amazed at the fees charged for trainings. The NJNEOA training seminars features invited experts, and, if I were a Chief of Police, I would certainly send as many police officers to NJNEOA-sponsored trainings as I possibly could.



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The PRICE IS RIGHT! The law enforcement community is aware of the results of failing to train officers.

Training opportunities for 2022 include: February 15th – OMG - Inception to Conviction; March 4, 7-11 – Basic TNT Class #10; April 19 – Current Drug Trends; May 3, 4 – Interdiction of passenger vehicles; June 6-10 – Annual Conference, Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ; July 11-15 – Role of the Undercover; and September 9, 12-16 – Basic TNT Class #11.

Please check out our website www.njneoa.org

Let's make 2022 a positive year and make the world a better place by our contributions.

Law Enforcement is in the business of keeping people safe. Treat people as members of your family and you will have positive results. The majority of the people in the world are good people. Good people do not need laws and rules and regulations, as they ARE good people who do not want to commit any bad acts. Bad people need the laws and rules to try to keep them on the right track; but this is not a perfect world and laws are broken, so we end up having to enforce the laws. Remember that we are good people and act accordingly. We are NOT in the political business - we are in the business of doing the right and condemn the wrong!

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association (KNOA) annual training conference was held September 1, 2 and 3, 2021, at the Hilton Downtown Hotel in Lexington, KY. KNOA President Steve Cobb presided over the opening ceremony. National Narcotic Officers' Association Coalition Vice-President Eric Brown was the opening speaker. He presented an overview of the "state of narcotic enforcement", both good and bad. Agency heads from state, local and federal agencies made brief opening remarks.

Detective Ben Fleury (Owensboro Police Department, Street Crimes Unit) received the Narcotic Officer of the Year for the Western District of Kentucky, and Detective Brian Cobb (Lexington Police Department, Narcotics Enforcement Unit) received the Narcotic Officer of the Year for the Eastern District of Kentucky.



Scott Miller (retired KSP Lt. Colonel and Attorney-Legal officer), now working with the Sturgill-Turner Law Firm in Lexington, presented "Trends in Law Enforcement Litigation".

Intelligence-sharing presentations were made on RISS Safe/ROCIC, Kentucky State Police (KSP) Laboratory Section concerning drug trends in Kentucky, and parcel interdiction. Following the presentations, there was an open discussion of intel-sharing with the over 300 narcotic officers attending, conducted by Matt Gelhausen (LMPD), Steve Wright (ROCIC), and KNOA Secretary Mike Brackett.

On September 2, the entire day consisted of Courtroom Survival and Narcotics Investigation, and an overview of the Dallas Police Department shooting was presented. It was presented by Retired Detective/Reserve Dallas PD Officer Byron Boston with Professional Law Enforcement Training.

This course is appropriate for officers involved in the investigation of narcotics cases. Effective courtroom testimony by law enforcement officials is necessary in today's world of case prosecution. Successful prosecution depends in part on a competent and professional presentation to the jury and/or judge by the law enforcement official. Most law enforcement officials receive little, if any, formal training regarding courtroom testimony. In addition to how and why, a personal connection must be made with the judge/jury and how to identify and protect their personal credibility. This course teaches officers the do's and don'ts of testifying, as well as courtroom process and procedures.

On September 3, the 4-hour training was "Street Academy: Survival Tactics for Police Officers", conducted by Sergeant Jeff Smith (Ret.) with Street Cop Training. This course is appropriate for all law enforcement officers and is designed to save the lives of police officers everywhere. It covers how small everyday tasks, such as gear placement, and how proficiency in things like handcuffing and handgun reloads, need to be committed to muscle memory to be performed subconsciously under severe stress. This course will open the eyes of younger officers and reinvigorate seasoned cops by stressing to them the importance of mental rehearsal, having pre-planned options for certain events, and stress inoculation, so that under extreme duress our cognitive brain will be able to function and provide us with survival options from "The Drop-Down Menu in Our Brain."

WEST VIRGINIA

Contributed by Chad Napier, WVNOA Executive Director

After two years of inactivity due to COVID, the WVNOA is planning to organize a conference to be held in the Fall of 2022. The WVNOA will be partnering with the U.S. Attorney's Office to provide the training, which will take place in the Southern District of West Virginia. The course of instruction has not been planned yet.

Midwest Region - J Douglas Hurley
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As 2021 comes to a close and we sit back and reflect on the year we have had, one thing has remained constant for law enforcement – significant drug seizures. The advancement of technology through social media, encrypted messaging apps, online cash exchange apps and the enhanced use of concealment techniques inside of vehicles, shipping containers and parcels has law enforcement continuing to evolve with the times.

Since my writing in the last magazine publication, I have learned of multi-city, multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional seizures throughout the Midwest Region. In an effort to highlight the amazing work of our law enforcement agencies and their partnerships over the past 6 months, I have summarized a few of these outstanding cases:

South Dakota law enforcement received a tip that drugs were being transported to Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls Police Department and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, working with the drug task force, stopped a car occupied by two subjects from Houston, Texas, with nearly 63 pounds of cocaine, a gun and a ledger full of transactions on them.

Western **Minnesota** authorities arrested five in connection with fake Oxycodone pills containing fentanyl after the local drug and gang task force received information about the pills being sold at multiple locations in the city. According to the task force, the pills were linked to overdoses of people who thought they were buying Oxycodone.

During the arrests of the subjects and the search of one home, eight children were also removed from the home and placed in the care of Family Services.

Minnesota investigators stated that between 2016 and 2021, the use of surveillance, flight records, cell phone records and shipping manifests led to the arrests of six Minnesota men. During the course of the investigation, the men and others shipped 300- to 500-pound crates of marijuana from California to Minnesota at least 61 times. Using an elaborate shipping method, the crew would send crates from a warehouse in St. Paul to a warehouse in North Highlands, Calif.



The subjects would fly from Minnesota to California to purchase the marijuana, fill the crates and then load them on a delivery truck for shipment back to Minnesota, the complaint said. Once the shipment arrived, the crates were unpacked, repackaged and the marijuana was placed in large garbage bags and boxes and stored at the men's residences for distribution.

Investigators raided the St. Paul warehouse and seized 600 pounds of marijuana and 400 pounds of edibles and THC vape juice.

Minnesota law enforcement indicated that one of the top five drug seizures occurred after a search warrant was conducted in Inver Grove Heights, where authorities arrested three men and seized approximately 268 pounds of methamphetamine, two kilos of cocaine, three pounds of mushrooms and one pound of marijuana in the residence.

Forty people were arrested throughout **Indiana**, **Illinois** and **Wisconsin** as the result of a prolonged drug investigation which led to the seizure of 183 pounds of fentanyl, 68,250 counterfeit fentanyl pills, 16 guns and \$542,305 in U.S. currency. Since August 3, 2021, DEA agents, working with their local counterparts throughout Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, have arrested 62 people, seized 236 pounds of fentanyl, seized guns and collected over \$647,000 in U.S. currency. This federal surge has specifically targeted fentanyl and counterfeit pills laced with the drug.

Three individuals were arrested in **Illinois** on federal charges as part of an investigation that disrupted a suspected Mexico-to-Chicago drug pipeline and resulted in government seizures of a private plane and 100 kilograms of cocaine. The cocaine had allegedly been transported to the Chicago area earlier Wednesday via private plane from Toluca, Mexico, via Houston,

Texas. The plane arrived at Gary/Chicago International Airport in Gary, Indiana, and the drugs were driven in suitcases to downtown Chicago, the charges allege.

In **Iowa**, a Minnesota man attempted to avoid arrest by making numerous 911 calls that shots were being fired in the area in which his traffic stop was taking place. It was later determined he was utilizing a burner phone he had in his possession to distract the officers from locating 5,000 M-30 pills as well as his stolen Springfield XD 9mm handgun.

Recently in northern **Iowa**, law enforcement authorities conducted a joint investigation and utilized a police K-9 to conduct an exterior sniff of a vehicle where more than 100 pounds of methamphetamine was located inside of four duffle bags and inside of a Jacuzzi being hauled by two men, one from Wisconsin and the other from Illinois; both were arrested.

During a search warrant at a residence in Waterloo, **Iowa**, law enforcement agencies seized approximately

100 pounds of methamphetamine, 70,000 fentanyl M-30 pills and 6 kilograms of an unknown powder suspected to be heroin.

While conducting a multijurisdictional investigation in three **Iowa** cities, law enforcement personnel seized 82 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.5 pounds of heroin, 10 pounds of marijuana, weapons and cash.

Although these are highlights of significant, large-scale seizures, many local-level, high-impact cases occurred in the Midwest Region. Often overlooked and under-publicized, the rural and local-level cases frequently tie into the large-scale seizures through cooperating defendants and confidential sources. The proliferation of narcotics into smaller communities continues to impact local law enforcement agencies who do not have the resources to investigate the cases and are, like all of this great nation, experiencing a diminished workforce.

South Central Region - Leland Sykes

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I hope this report finds everyone doing well and one step ahead of the COVID madness.

COVID is not the only epidemic with which we are dealing. Since the last time we had the opportunity to come together for our annual meeting in Washington DC, this country in general – and law enforcement especially – has faced challenges. Beginning in the summer of 2020, we have faced these serious challenges: from watching major cities burn nationwide, to open season on police officers, to unprecedented drug overdose deaths, to a violent crime rate we have not seen in decades, and, finally, to our brothers and sisters in law enforcement being terminated in the name of science.

The region is encountering similar illicit drug issues. The large cities and suburban and rural areas alike, are all seeing significant amounts of heroin, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, and powder cocaine. All these illicit drugs are being cut with fentanyl, leading to skyrocketing drug overdose deaths. Those of us who have worked in drug law enforcement for several years tend to believe that whatever crisis is cropping up at that time will be the worst that ever happens: the crack cocaine of the 90's, the methamphetamine

explosion, the heroin crisis. But I genuinely believe that history will look back on fentanyl to be the worst illicit substance to hit the streets.

All of these illicit substances are being shipped by Mexican DTO's (Drug Trafficking Organizations) across the border, unabated. We, as a country, simply must bring back sensibility, and enforcement, to the southern border, for the drug problem in America to ever improve.

The region also continues to see large amounts of high-grade marijuana being trafficked in the region. This marijuana comes from the usual suspects of states, such as Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, which have legalized marijuana.

As you are aware, our annual Washington, DC, meeting, typically held in February, had to be postponed, due to COVID restrictions, until July. I encourage everyone to make every effort to attend the rescheduled meeting. This will be an important meeting, as the current climate demands that our dedicated members continue to fight for our long-standing and unwavering principles. The NNOAC has had the fortitude to stay strong and committed, even though it is not currently politically popular.

Look forward to seeing everyone in Washington!





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Great Lakes Region - Gary Ashenfelter

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Amid the Covid-19 news reporting over the past two years, and now the focus on the Russian-Ukrainian War, the growing drug crisis seems to get back page coverage. The yearly death toll from illegal drug trade continues to grow as does the violence that comes along with it. The homicide rate in Indianapolis, Indiana was the largest in history in 2021, and is paced to rise again in 2022.

The number one drug, Fentanyl, is found in almost every illegal drug sold on the streets in the Great Lakes Region. It's laced in marijuana, pills, heroin, and methamphetamine, making it not only the number one drug, but the number one killer.

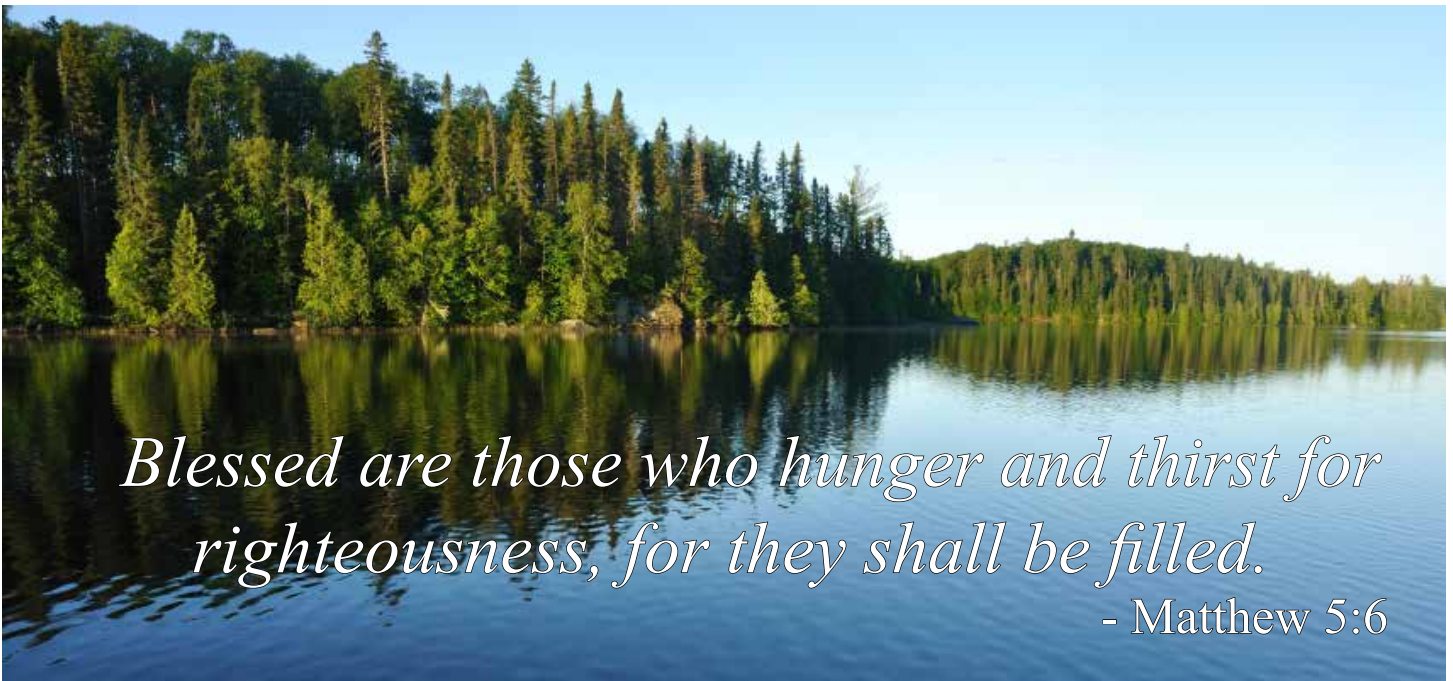
Meth labs have become a thing of the past as Mexican Drug Cartels continue to flood the streets with crystal meth. In Kentucky, Illinois, and the southern corner of Indiana,



2019 and 2021 had the largest seizure of methamphetamine broken three times. During this period, the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force, for the area based in Evansville, infiltrated the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. The investigation centered on bulk narcotics trafficking and human smuggling. In late December of 2021, police intercepted a courier with five pounds of Fentanyl pills in Fort Wayne coming from Detroit.

Even though Fentanyl has risen in popularity, marijuana still poses a huge problem in this area of the country. In the Cincinnati area where Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky meet, a traffic stop yielded \$80,000 in cash and several pounds of marijuana. Further search warrants yielded another one hundred pounds of marijuana, in addition to one hundred and twenty pounds of pre-packaged edibles. Investigations in Indiana located a storage facility in Kentucky which contained another five hundred pounds of marijuana and a half a million dollars in cash. This case and several similar cases involve shipments from the west coast to the central part of the United States.

The illegal drug trade is alive and well in the Great Lakes Region, but law enforcement continues to hammer away at those who want to poison our future.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

- Matthew 5:6



National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

2022 Federal Priorities

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - \$519 million

Byrne JAG is a critical source of support for multijurisdictional task forces. Task forces are cornerstones of effective drug law enforcement that enable joint efforts against regional drug trafficking organizations that are connected to larger transnational crime groups. Byrne JAG funding has been slashed since FY 2010, resulting in fewer task forces at a time when drug overdose deaths have skyrocketed. Byrne JAG should be restored to the FY 2010 level of **\$519 million in FY 2023**.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program - \$50 million

RISS is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing. RISS, which reaches nearly 10,000 agencies across the United States, is particularly helpful to small agencies that do not have in-house analytical or investigative support functions. RISS centers provide criminal intelligence analysis, officer safety, and deconfliction services that are critical to America's narcotic officers. RISS funding should be funded at no less than **\$50 million in FY 2023**.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program - \$356 million

HIDTA provides essential support for drug enforcement across America. Results of HIDTA investments are clearly demonstrated through a comprehensive performance measurement program. HIDTAs support investigations into hundreds of regional and international drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and money laundering organizations (MLOs). HIDTA should be funded at **no less than \$356 million in FY 2023 and be administered under ONDCP**.

Pass Legislation to Permanently Schedule Fentanyl Analogues

Fentanyl and similar substances kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. While Congress recently extended the temporary emergency scheduling of these substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, permanent scheduling should follow. Permanent scheduling – which the **Stopping Overdoses of Fentanyl Analogues (SOFA) Act** would do – would support continued aggressive enforcement against criminals who traffic in these poisons.

Protect Facial Recognition and Other Investigative Technologies

Investigative technology, including facial recognition, helps law enforcement be more accurate and efficient in investigating drug trafficking organizations. Overhyped fears about these tools ignore the reality that they are successfully used every day to protect Americans. We support responsible guardrails including human review of technology outputs. Congress should **oppose bans, moratoriums, or other undue limitations on the use of facial recognition and other investigative tools**.

Protect Access to Private Sector Digital Information

Protecting the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens is a top priority of law enforcement and members of Congress. Legislation to strengthen these protections is currently being considered by Congress, however we are concerned with proposed language that could hinder federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from using private sector services to support drug trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal investigations. Congress should **ensure law enforcement has access to important commercial data, oppose data retention and destruction mandates that could impact access to investigative data, and provide exemptions for companies working with law enforcement when considering data privacy legislation**.

Pass Legislation to Ensure Lawful Access to Digital Evidence

The “going dark” challenge impacts criminal investigations every day in America. This is when companies implement encryption on devices and apps without maintaining an ability to provide access to the system when a judge signs a warrant. That means drug traffickers, child exploiters, and other criminals have an easier time planning, executing, and covering up their activities. Congress should **ensure service providers can provide lawful access to digital evidence in response to a warrant, and should increase grants and training to build digital evidence capacity among all of law enforcement**.

Oppose Marijuana Legalization; Regulate CBD Products

Data show that youth drug use, seizures of black market marijuana, and marijuana-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and traffic deaths have skyrocketed in states that have legalized marijuana sales. **Congress should oppose**

any effort to legalize marijuana, including the MORE Act. At the same time, Congress should ensure that CBD, which does not produce impairment, is subjected to a clear regulatory framework to protect consumer safety.

Support the National Guard Counterdrug Training Schools

High quality training is essential for all of law enforcement, and especially for drug enforcement operations. The National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of narcotic officers each year. Congress should fund the National Guard Counterdrug Schools at no less than **\$26 million in FY 2023 and ensure that curriculum content and instruction are determined by drug enforcement experts.**

Importation of Counterfeit Medications

Counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, are having a devastating impact on the United States and they are a major contributor to the thousands of drug deaths our Country is currently experiencing. We believe that continuing to allow importation of these dangerous drugs will further weaken our borders, while also increasing the amount of substandard, adulterated, and counterfeit prescription drugs entering the United States, fueling criminal enterprises, and worsening the opioid crisis in our country. Congress should **reject any proposal that will increase the potential for more Americans to become harmed, addicted, or even killed by foreign-produced and marketed illegal drugs.**

Restrict Marketing of CBD/THC

It is the responsibility of private industry and our elected leaders to work with us to discourage the questionable practices and deceptive marketing tactics that illicit market producers and distributors of THC products use to entice and encourage impressionable young people to consume these dangerous substances. Children are increasingly threatened by the unscrupulous use of famous brand logos, characters, trademarks, and trade dress on THC-laced edible products. Proposed legislation creates liability for electronic commerce platforms for advertising, sale, or distribution of goods with counterfeit marks that “implicate health and safety.” Congress should also **include “famous” marks, a term already defined in U.S. code, to extend this protection and deter the sale of these copycat THC items which clearly “implicate health and safety” of children.** You can learn more about this issue from the Consumer Brands Association THC Copycat Edibles Toolkit, which can be found at the following link: <https://consumerbrandsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL-THC-Packet.pdf>.

Public Safety Communications

The American Music Fairness Act has been introduced in Congress by a bi-partisan group of lawmakers to mandate creators get paid when their music is played on traditional AM/FM radio stations. While this legislation is not the typical issue that the NNOAC considers, we understand that the important issue of public safety communications has been discussed. Broadcasters play a role, as part of their obligations, to communicate public safety information about events such as dangerous weather and national emergencies. Some have claimed that the costs associated with this legislation may impede radio stations’ capability to deliver on these obligations. Public safety communications should not be used as a pawn in the lobbying battle over this issue. Congress should **base its decision on its merits, and not hinge it on some questionable claims about the costs of public safety communications.**

To view NNOAC’s detailed position papers,
scan the QR code below.



POLICE MOM: MY DAUGHTER HAS A PATCH WITH HER BLOOD TYPE ON HER BULLET PROOF VEST

Posted by: LET Guest February 19, 2022

Editorial, Featured and reprinted with permission

Immediately after college, my daughter moved away to an unfamiliar state.

With an equal amount of divine optimism and determined grit, she applied to the police academy and became a patrol officer in a city of 1.3 million people.

Although we live several thousand miles apart, we enjoy fragmented phone conversations as time allows.

She is a capable, independent young woman, yet unflinchingly texts to let me know she's made it home safely. If her shift goes into overtime, she sends a simple message: *Working OT. Everyone is fine.*

I am told with regularity that everyone is fine, though I often lie awake at night.

Despite the reassurance, I worry about her. I worry about her brethren, because they, too, are her family—her family in Blue. I pray for their safety and sanity as I pray for hers.

For several years, I'd asked to accompany my daughter on a shift. Her answer was always a resounding *No!* Finally, she acquiesced and arranged for a ride-along during a recent visit—on New Year's Eve.

I would accompany her on patrol, a division situated within one of the largest cities in the country.

As my daughter prepared for her shift, I surveyed her gear stand. A patrol uniform hung clean and crisp, every attention to detail evident.

While packing items into her duty bag, she straightened herself, exuding dedication and professionalism. Mental preparation was underway as well. Her demeanor changed as she pulled her hair back into a tight bun, a warrior readying for battle.

Reaching into a pocket, she performed a quick check, ensuring that she has two tourniquets—one for emergencies and one reserved for herself.

As she lifted her vest off the rack, my eyes settled on a Velcro patch imprinted with her blood type, which was affixed to the heavy body armor.

Although I'd seen this many times before, the significance of why the patch is there and why it is necessary stirred an emotion that I wasn't expecting. A lump caught in my throat.

She hastily packed a bag with snacks and water, mentioning that we would eat after shift on the way home.



Typically, there is no time for breaks and the unwritten rule in her division is this: *if everyone can't take a meal break, no one takes a meal break.*

It is not advised to eat at many of the restaurants in her division as restaurant employees will spit in their drinks or defile their food in unimaginable ways. The thought of this always makes me angry, as police dependably assist those same people in their hour of need.

Before we left for the evening, my daughter paused to look at something. Proudly displayed on the refrigerator door was a crayon drawing.

Handwritten cards from schoolchildren had been delivered to her division during the holidays, and hers held a powerful message of appreciation: *"Thank you for your service, and have a Merry Christmas!"*

After a long commute in heavy traffic, we arrived at the station. My daughter changed into her uniform and attached her duty belt, radio, and body cam.

Because it was New Year's Eve, some elements were outfitted with precautionary accoutrements: helmets, shields, rubber bullets, and additional body armor.

There were several raised eyebrows during detail when announced that there would be a civilian present during what promised to be a busy night.

Countless patrol vehicles lined up awaiting drivers. After quickly loading duty gear into the trunk, we were on our way. As soon as she signed in, the onboard computer lit up.

Calls came in fast and furious as elements were dispatched into the unknown. Because of my presence, she was limited on what calls she could take. But it was obvious that there were more calls than available officers.

The radio came to life with transmissions of urgency.

Voice inflections revealed critical resoluteness, and tired dispatchers reported calls to known addresses.

As a silent observer, I noticed an unsettling cadence to the events: Shooting, stabbing, crash, repeat. Peppered amongst domestic violence calls and vehicle thefts were pedestrians struck, robberies, drive-by shootings, public disturbances, mental health emergencies, and the expected frequent fliers.

New Year's revelers started early. It became difficult for me to distinguish illegal fireworks from the constant barrage of gunfire; semi-automatic weapons fired into the air by folks who clearly didn't understand the law of physics.

We were in the middle of a war zone as patrol vehicles running code zigzagged throughout the city.

During one call to a shooting/stabbing incident, my daughter rolled crime scene tape across an intersection. I was amazed by the indifference of bystanders who seemed desensitized to this daily occurrence.

Mothers with small children walked around crime scene tape. Drivers yelled at officers for blocking off the street, and an elderly man came toddling out of his home to observe, munching on a large bag of popcorn as if watching a movie.

Upon returning to the station after a long shift, reports must be written: mind numbing, tedious reports that require detail, accuracy, and reliving events that would be best forgotten.

It also means returning the patrol vehicle to the lot, removing body cam, checking items back into inventory, and, to avoid being a target, changing into civilian clothes for the long trip home.

There is a physical, mental, and emotional price that comes with this job; heads are perpetually on a swivel and calls to bile-rising places challenge intestinal fortitude and test immune systems.

Besides lethal weapons, exposure to illicit drugs or toxic substances are a constant source of concern. And by the end of shift, that clean crisp uniform may be covered in blood or bodily fluids.

Even with suspenders, the unbearable weight of duty belts cause back pain and fatigue that is only temporarily relieved by a coveted chiropractic appointment.

Tired feet, encased in boots too long, scream to be released. Finding a safe location to use the bathroom is a challenge and holding bladders or bowels for an unreasonable length of time is common.

Public scrutiny is ever present, often with cell phones popping up recording every action and every word by those critical of law enforcement; those who run from danger instead of toward it. I often question why my daughter wants to do this job—why anyone would put up with this abuse.

In her case, I know that past events were the driving force behind my daughter's decision to go into law enforcement.

She was sick of those close to her becoming victims of violent crimes.

She told me that while she can't prevent bad things from happening to good people, she would rather be out helping instead of feeling helpless.

Law enforcement is a thankless, demanding, and traumatic job. The hours are long. Pay and benefits are not commensurate with the level of education and commitment required. They are entrenched with the worst that society has to offer.

They see the ugly side of humanity and deal with people on their worst day. Relationships will be strained and faith will be cruelly challenged. Still, they press onward—an unwavering promise to protect and serve.

Before criticizing the men and women in Blue, try walking in their shoes. Try to remember with solemn regard that they are human and that everyone is doing their best.

They are fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, and yes, someone's child. The time has come to practice understanding and empathy; to vociferously offer support and encouragement; to show gratitude, because without those holding the thin blue line between order and chaos, society would crumble.

Oftentimes, the smallest gesture keeps us moving in a forward direction. I think of the drawing displayed on my daughter's refrigerator. How the years will pass; how the paper will yellow and fade. Though like the badge that is worn, a powerful message of appreciation from an innocent child will shine brightly through the darkest times.

"Thank you for your service."

By Anne Marie Rosado

Previously a freelance newspaper and magazine contributor for over 20-years, Anne now writes Contemporary Women's Fiction. With an established personal platform and web presence, she authors an unfiltered online Blog about ordinary life as told from an extraordinary perspective.

As a former military spouse, traveling extensively across the globe has given Anne a unique insight into the human condition. On the rare occasion that an article is submitted for publication, the driving force is typically a strong personal attachment to the subject matter.

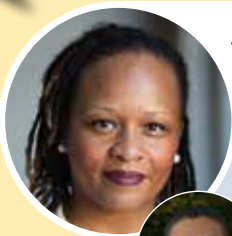
As the mother of a police officer, Anne is a passionate advocate for law enforcement, and whenever possible, promotes and encourages public support. Having served as a first responder, she has great respect for those willing to make this level of commitment.

Involved with K9 rescue and rehabilitation for thirty-years, Anne volunteers with a Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd Rescue from her home in Northwest Montana.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT COUNTERFEIT MEDICATIONS ARE HARD, BUT THEY'RE IMPORTANT

Talk to your community about the deadly consequences of counterfeit pills.

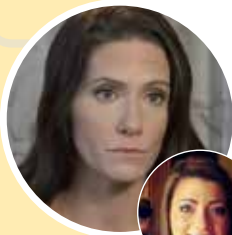
THIS IS WHAT SURVIVORS WISH THEY COULD HAVE SAID:



"Buying a pill online is just as dangerous as buying one off the street. You never know what's in them; your pill could be filled with poison."



Rachel Blado's son, Josh, died after taking a fake Xanax made with fentanyl. He bought pills online after he saw a TED talk claiming that online drug sellers with good reviews were safe.



"You cannot tell a counterfeit by looking at it. Don't buy a pill from a co-worker or friend!"



Caroline DiVita's sister, Maggie, was killed instantly when she took what she thought was an oxycodone pill for her back pain.



"Just because it looks like a pill doesn't mean it's a safe pharmacy product. Criminals make fake pills with deadly ingredients and sell them for money. When your friend offers you a pill, ask yourself, 'Why do they have this?'"



Lisa Hicks' son, Joe, died after he pulled a muscle and a friend gave him fake painkillers.

Contact Sven Bergmann at 614-401-8010 for training, intelligence, support and materials. Email him at SBergmann@ventureglobal.com.

 **The Partnership for SAFEMEDICINES®** ©2021

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERDICTION OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICATIONS

Today, the United States grapples with an influx of counterfeit medicines: counterfeit therapeutic medicines sold online to consumers and healthcare providers; and counterfeit controlled substances manufactured both domestically and internationally distributed within the U.S., affecting the lives of Americans across the country. This is a public health and safety issue that needs to be addressed through comprehensive policy, legislative and regulatory efforts to strengthen interdiction and enforcement efforts, securing the supply chain, and avoiding the creation of additional loopholes for criminals to exploit.

For 18 years, the Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM) has been working diligently to educate policymakers and the public on the dangers of counterfeit medicines. Given the startling and frightening numbers surrounding the prevalence of illegal pill presses, counterfeit pills containing fentanyl and the rapidly increasing deaths related to counterfeit pills, it is more critical than ever that law enforcement be equipped with the tools and resources necessary to combat this growing threat and to effectively prosecute illicit bad actors harming our communities.

By the end of 2021, the DEA reported seizing over 20 million counterfeit pills containing fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances (FRS). Even more concerning, DEA lab analysis showed 40 percent - or 4 out of every 10 pills - contained a lethal dose of 2 milligrams of fentanyl or more. Most of these seizures occurred at or near the Southern Border and its Ports of Entry (POE), while some also occurred at other POEs, including airports, International Mail Facilities (IMF), seaports and along coastal borders. International criminal drug networks are trafficking these fake pills into the U.S. to exploit the opioid crisis, with fentanyl listed as the most common synthetic opioid found in these fake pills.

However, law enforcement staffing, resources, equipment, and training have not kept pace with the ever-increasing flow of illicit drugs, counterfeit medicines and fentanyl pills crossing into the United States. Law enforcement continually operates with legacy technologies, such as outdated cellphone, computers and IT equipment, while also lacking the resources, proper equipment and manpower to screen and search the vast amounts of incoming cargo, freight, airmail, packages, vehicles, and passengers for illicit drugs effectively and efficiently.

Funding existing law enforcement efforts and programs, such as DEA's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task

Forces (OCDETF) and the ONDCP's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), while increasing law enforcement access to critical interdiction tools and equipment, like field training, testing kits, IT equipment and other technologies, as well as overdose reversal agents, is critical for law enforcement to proactively and effectively push back against well-funded criminal organizations and drug traffickers deploying the latest technological innovations and essentially operating with impunity.

For example, the HIDTA program provides grants to 33 areas deemed to be critical drug trafficking regions within the U.S., and coordinates with federal agencies across departments, such as the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. HIDTA's cross-agency collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies allows smaller agencies to pull in additional resources they otherwise would not have access to or even know they needed, such as those provided through HIDTA's Overdose Mapping Detection Application Program (ODMAP). ODMAP supports public safety and health efforts to mobilize rapid response to sudden increases or spikes in overdose events with real-time, cross-jurisdictional surveillance data. A significant increase in allocation of federal funding would allow local HIDTAs to respond adequately to drug related activities in more areas.

Further, the OCDETF Task Force combines the resources and expertise of the DEA and numerous federal agencies to target drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Since its inception, tens of thousands of arrests have been made and hundreds of tons of narcotics and billions in currency, real property, and conveyances have been seized. OCDETF targets the supply chain of drug trafficking networks to disrupt and dismantle these criminal organizations. Funding additional resources for OCDETF will play a vital role in reducing the availability of counterfeit drugs and bringing criminals to justice.

In the year ending in April 2021, fentanyl claimed the lives of 40,010 Americans ages 18-45.

That's more than car accidents (22,442), suicide (21,678), COVID (21,335), and cancer (17,114).

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2022:

As Congress debates legislative policies and regulatory enforcement measures to combat the flow of counterfeit and illicit drugs containing fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances into our communities, it should prioritize policies to improve interdiction efforts.

Key to law enforcement success in disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking networks relies on its ability to identify, arrest, and prosecute large dealers, distributors, and suppliers of counterfeits containing lethal doses of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances – a never-ending task that requires continual upgrades to tools and equipment used in the field. Prioritizing resource funding for law enforcement is critical.

RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Drug interdiction and investigation are resource intensive. Law enforcement needs increased resources and tools enabling them to interdict and combat counterfeit medicines and illicit drugs. Federal, State and Local law enforcement agencies require resources for adequate staffing, equipment and training to keep pace the ever-increasing flow of illicit drugs, counterfeit medicines and fentanyl pills crossing into the United States.

Increased resources, such as those identified within H.R. 5382, the Providing Officers With Electronic Resources (POWER) Act, are crucial for law enforcement to hire, train and retain well-trained, qualified, and specialized full-time officers, investigators and support staff, as well as dedicate more officers to narcotics units and task forces, and to conduct larger scale investigations into drug trafficking networks and enables law enforcement to assign full-time officers to narcotics, vice and cyber units, as well as assign additional officers to federal, regional and local taskforces.

STRENGTHEN EXISTING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS:

There are already law enforcement agencies that handle counterfeit drug interdiction as part of their mission (FDA's Office of Criminal Investigation, CBP, HSI, Postal Inspectors) or because the criminals they traditionally pursue have started selling counterfeit medicines (DOJ's OCEETF, ONDCP's HIDTA program, and DEA itself). Strengthening these existing programs by increasing their annual appropriations funding amounts will ensure their budgets adequately meet their interdiction and enforcement needs.

FUND LAW ENFORCEMENT MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Technological innovation and innovative research leads

to new equipment and better tools for law enforcement to interdict against counterfeits. However, U.S. law enforcement equipment, technologies, and tools are not consistently upgraded and replaced due to budget constraints. Meanwhile, criminal organizations operate without such limitations and utilize the latest innovations in technology, creating a disadvantage for U.S. law enforcement chasing better resourced, better equipped criminal networks. Funding technology modernization across federal agencies, while providing for grants to state and local law enforcement partner agencies, would allow law enforcement to level the playing field and equip field agents at POEs with state-of-the-art equipment as they face sophisticated, well-funded and technologically advanced criminal organizations and cartels.

ENFORCEMENT POWERS AGAINST ONLINE MARKETPLACES AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Law enforcement has limited abilities to enforce against the advertisement or sale of counterfeit medicines, illicit substances or fentanyl pills on social media or online marketplaces. Law enforcement needs civil and criminal enforcement authority that can penetrate the protections provided to these social media companies and platforms by current U.S. law. Legislative proposals like, the DRUGS Act and Lock & Suspend Legislation, would give law enforcement injunctive authority to swiftly and proactively detect and remove illicit online marketplaces and websites.

INCREASED PENALTIES AGAINST CRIMINALS WHO USE PILL PRESSES TO MAKE COUNTERFEITS: Pill presses are virtually unregulated today, a fact which has contributed to many criminals within the U.S. becoming home manufacturers of deadly counterfeit medicines. PSM's 2019 and 2021 reports examined the issues around illegal pill presses and found that minimal legal and regulatory progress has been made even with law enforcement's better understanding of the role pill presses and molds play in crime. Legislation to increase penalties on those convicted of controlled substance crimes while in possession of a pill press, such as H.R. 1303, the Criminalizing Abused Substance Templates Act, is needed to fight back against homemade counterfeit pills.

DISCOURAGE NEW FAKE PILL INGREDIENTS BY PERMANENTLY SCHEDULING FENTANYL RELATED SUBSTANCES: The prevalence of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances within our communities is a worsening public health crisis and recent bipartisan efforts to permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances through a science-based and balanced approach highlight the devastating impacts counterfeit medicines containing these

The Coalition

substances have on the lives of Americans, their families, and their communities.

Addressing fentanyl-analogue scheduling is not only a law enforcement priority, but also an important criminal justice tool for the victims of fentanyl poisoning. By permanently scheduling fentanyl analogues, families who have lost loved ones to counterfeit pills find some closure and justice while providing a way in which the U.S. can respond to this troubling trend by giving law enforcement the ability to pursue illicit bad actors who are contributing to the opioid epidemic.

Ongoing efforts to decriminalize drugs, including fentanyl, and limit seizure and forfeiture laws are counterproductive to law enforcement efforts to bolster investigations and prosecution of criminal organizations. Congress must find permanent solutions to fentanyl scheduling so law enforcement can continue the fight against these illicit substances and protect our communities against the opioid epidemic by keeping deadly fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances off the streets.

CONSISTENT EMT OVERDOSE REPORTING:

Overdose data is an important investigatory tool, as highlighted by the success of ODMAP, but inconsistencies in

EMT overdose reporting metrics between states and across the country is widespread, leading to confusion and distrust in the nation's overdose data. Developing standardized overdose reporting metrics will help law enforcement and first responders to identify, counteract and enforce against counterfeit drugs or fentanyl pills as they are distributed in the community. Congress should urge federal agencies, and state and local governments to work together to develop standardized reporting requirements and information sharing processes on overdoses and poisonings in order to better understand how counterfeit medicines and the opioid epidemic are affecting our communities.

About The Partnership for Safe Medicines:

Founded in 2003, the Partnership for Safe Medicines is committed to the safety of prescription drugs and protecting consumers against counterfeit, substandard or otherwise unsafe medicines. PSM's principles include unifying the fight against counterfeit drugs, securing and protecting the pharmaceutical supply chain, the education of public and government agencies of fraudulent and counterfeit products and ensuring online sellers operate in compliance with existing laws, regulations and platforms' terms of service.



The **only safe medications are ones that come from **licensed and accredited medical professionals.****

DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal.

For more information about counterfeit pills, go to [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Data as of December 2021



The Drug Enforcement Administration ensures the safety and health of the American public by fighting against violent criminal drug networks and foreign cartels trafficking in illicit drugs. To accomplish that mission, the Drug Enforcement Administration employs approximately 10,000 men and women throughout the world – Special Agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists – across 239 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and 91 foreign offices in 68 countries.

**ONE
PILL CAN
KILL**

Department of Justice | Drug Enforcement Administration
COUNTERFEIT PILLS FACT SHEET

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

DEA LAB TESTING REVEALS THAT

4 OUT OF EVERY **10** PILLS

WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A POTENTIALLY

LETHAL DOSE



Counterfeit pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before.

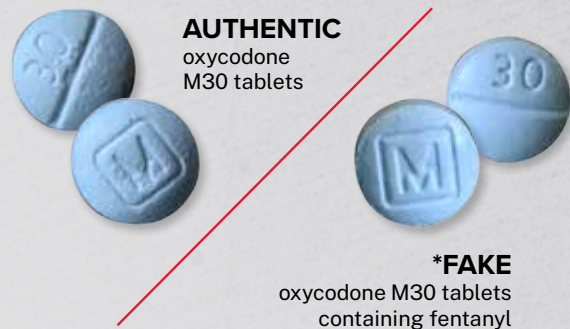
DEA officials report a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose.

Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 100,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States in the most recent 12-month reporting period, the most ever recorded.

Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths.

Criminal drug networks are flooding the U.S. with deadly fake pills.

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).



AUTHENTIC
oxycodone
M30 tablets

***FAKE**
oxycodone M30 tablets
containing fentanyl

For more information about counterfeit pills, go to [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Data as of December 2021



*Photos of counterfeit pills do not represent all available fake pills.

COVID-19 AND OPIOID TRAFFICKING IN THE AUSTRALIAN CORRECTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Australia is a Commonwealth nation, governed as a constitutional monarchy. The head of state is currently Queen Elizabeth II, who is the Sovereign of the United Kingdom and fifteen Commonwealth countries, including Canada, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. There are six Australian states (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia), three internal territories (the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), the Jervis Bay Territory and the Northern Territory (NT)) and a number of external island territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Each state, the ACT and NT are self-governing and have powers, authorities and responsibilities for the administration of justice, law enforcement, emergency response and correctional services, among other portfolios. As well as Commonwealth law enforcement agencies that deal with crimes at the federal level (such as the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and the Australian Border Force), each state and territory has a separate police force, correctional services department and state coroner. In the corrections context, state and territory governments have responsibility for safe and effective imprisonment, management and rehabilitation of offenders in prisons and correctional facilities.

A significant proportion of offenders enter the state-based correctional environments in circumstances related to illicit drug use and/or addiction. A recent study by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 65% of people entering Australian prisons had used illicit drugs in the previous year.¹

Managing prisoners with drug addiction issues presents a number of challenges for corrections staff. These include dealing with physical withdrawal symptoms and associated negative/aggressive behaviours displayed by prisoners. In addition to these behaviour-related issues, there are also requirements for medical management and therapeutical drug-replacement programs to treat and manage individual issues. From a security perspective, the enforcement challenge of deterring and detecting attempts by prisoners to establish and maintain contraband smuggling and trade in illicit or illicitly-obtained prescription drugs within prisons is significant and persistent.

The use of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) has been widespread in Australian prison systems as a regime of treatment for prisoners suffering from the effects of opioid

abuse. Prisoner patients undergoing OST are prescribed long-acting opioid analgesics (methadone or buprenorphine) as a replacement drug, with substitution generally being considered for opioid users who have difficulty stopping drug use and completing withdrawal.² OST seeks to reduce a number of potential harms associated with drug addiction, including illicit drug use and anti-social behaviour among prison populations, and a reduction in the risks of transmission of blood-borne viruses from needle-sharing.

Buprenorphine is a pharmaceutical opioid medication which requires a prescription to purchase in Australia. As outlined in the brief description of OST, buprenorphine is used in the treatment of heroin and methadone dependence to treat drug users undergoing withdrawal and, more broadly, as a pain reliever.

It can be administered to patients in the form of an orange-coloured film or in tablet form. Both the film and tablets can be placed under the tongue of a patient and allowed to dissolve in the mouth. As a method of non-pharmaceutical use, buprenorphine strips can also be dissolved and heated, with the user inhaling the vapour as a method of 'smoking' buprenorphine.

Due to the classification of buprenorphine as a prescription medication, selling or providing this medication without the approval of a medical practitioner is illegal, and buprenorphine is listed as a controlled 'drug of dependence' nationally. The brand-name 'Suboxone' describes a prescription medication that combines buprenorphine and the opioid overdose-reversal medication naloxone.

The availability of buprenorphine/naloxone in an easily transportable film form makes this drug an attractive contraband commodity amongst Australian prison populations. Strips can be rolled, folded or forcibly compressed to further assist in concealment and smuggling. The Victorian Auditor General released a report that established buprenorphine as the most commonly detected illicit drug used by prisoners in 2012 – 13, with more than 57.7% of all positive urinalysis tests consisting of returns for buprenorphine.³

In 2015, Queensland Police, acting on intelligence received from correctional services, conducted large-scale search and arrest operations, targeting outlaw motorcycle gang members that were alleged to be responsible for contraband distribution and trafficking of buprenorphine inside prisons. 48 people were charged with more than 100



offences. In addition to quantities of buprenorphine and naloxone in film form, drugs including ice and cannabis and cars alleged to be stolen were also seized by Queensland Police as part of this operation.⁴

As at November 2021, a number of market factors (including the significant reduction in visitor access to prisons due to COVID-19 related restrictions) saw a sharp increase in the value of buprenorphine to approximately AUD\$1000 per strip once delivered inside correctional facilities.⁵ This high ‘street-value’ (when considered against the pharmaceutical prescription value of AUD\$132.44 for a pack of 28 strips)⁶ makes buprenorphine a commodity that realises significant returns on investment by traffickers who can divert prescription medication from patients to the waiting illicit markets inside prisons.

With restrictions on visitors to correctional facilities all around the country being implemented to reduce the risk of virus transmission to prison populations, existing demand for traffickable quantities of buprenorphine and other contraband substances inside prisons has resulted in the adoption of new techniques and technologies by smugglers to attempt to deliver illicit drugs to prisoners.

These methods include the use of remote-controlled drones to deliver contraband drugs. In Australia’s two most populous states, New South Wales (population 8.16 million) and Victoria (population 6.68 million), correctional departments have recently identified the requirement to increase counter-drone capabilities to detect and deter the aerial smuggling of contraband.

On 27 July 2020, it was reported that a drone with over AUD\$100,000 worth of buprenorphine (108 strips and 42 tablets) was found by Corrective Services New South Wales officers searching a car near the Cessnock Correctional Centre.⁷ Other security measures currently in place include phone jamming, scanning technology, physical searches and the use of drug detection dogs inside Corrective Services New South Wales facilities.

Corrections Victoria installed dedicated antenna systems to identify drone signals and to facilitate the interception of

drones by security teams. Between March and November 2020, almost 100 security incidents were reported involving the use of drones near prisons, representing a rise of 246% in this type of activity.⁸

Image: Buprenorphine and naloxone in film form shown as concealed within printed material: Queensland Police Service

More direct methods of concealing this medication have also been observed, including using strips as an adhesive for stickers on envelopes, mail and children’s paintings as well as inside the cardboard backing of greeting cards and inside the lining of clothing and shoes sent to prisoners. As at May 2020, Corrective Services New South Wales was examining regulatory change to scan and photocopy prisoner’s mail to deter this method of smuggling.⁹ In a parallel development in Victoria, as well as upgrading the capacity of prisons to identify and intercept drones, Corrections Victoria was recently provided with additional powers in relation to examining incoming mail. Photocopies of correspondence are now provided to prisoners instead of the original documents which provides an additional layer of screening by correctional service officers to prevent the entry of contraband into facilities.

Where buprenorphine and other drugs are administered as an officially-controlled medication by staff within the correctional environment, some prison patients have been found to secrete cling film in their mouths, before pushing medication into the film and rolling in the film to stop the medication from dissolving. Doctors have reported that some prisoners have had teeth knocked out in order to use the dental cavities to hide buprenorphine and other drugs.¹⁰

In 2019, a coronial inquest into the death of a prisoner in a South Australian prison in Port Augusta heard evidence that, as part of a prison contraband drug trade, prisoners developed a “diversion” technique, where drugs administered under medical supervision were regurgitated by patients, before being sold or traded among other prisoners.¹¹

With the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 seeing causing transmission of the virus at unprecedented levels in Australia, further restrictions on visitor access to correctional facilities are likely where prison populations do not meet certain health thresholds, or where visitors are unable to provide proof of double-vaccination. Many jurisdictions are encouraging on-line visits through video calls, which will further reduce the capacity of the visitor stream to be utilised for the illicit movement of contraband.

Keeping pace with developing technology and utilising amendments to legislation and regulation to address new smuggling techniques are important developments in

Australian Prisons, cont.

addressing the challenges of the contraband trade. The employment of counter-drone technology and enhanced mail examination should be conducted alongside reinvigorated organisational audits and after-action review processes to assess additional vulnerabilities in both physical security arrangements and OST programs. Further steps to secure the correctional environment and augment advanced practices recently put in place could include back-to-basics measures such as implementing detailed and ongoing staff education in skills, tactics and professional ethics. Using this training as a foundation, correctional services departments could then develop enhanced reporting, response and intelligence-sharing programs to ensure staff across all state jurisdictions have a well-understood and standardised capacity to quickly identify and target the supply of illicitly-obtained drugs. The collective results of this combined approach could then be leveraged to provide the basis for ongoing engagement with other law enforcement agencies to interdict attempts to introduce these substances and other contraband to offenders remanded or serving custodial sentences.

This will serve to refine the capacity to pre-empt contraband smugglers and enhance efforts to provide secure confinement for prisoners. The demand for opioids remains constant in correctional environments, and it will be a continual struggle for correctional services to provide the best opportunities for rehabilitation of offenders prior to their eventual release back into the community.

About the author:

Aaron Tucker attended the NNOAC Delegate's Conference in Washington DC in 2020 as a Churchill Fellow, as part of a visit program with law enforcement agencies in the United States and Mexico. He is a sworn officer of the Australian Border Force and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police. Aaron has served in the Southwest Pacific, Iraq, the Gulf States, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia in law enforcement and intelligence roles and is looking forward to the opportunity to return to the United States in the near future. This is his third article for The Coalition.

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SWORN TO PROTECT & PROMOTE THE PUBLIC GOOD

by

Peter F. Boyce

General Counsel, NNOAC

Last year was the most alarming year for many reasons. Covid, Defund the Police, Civil Unrest, our Borders being overwhelmed and staggering numbers dying from drug overdoses, all suggest that it is imperative that the law enforcement profession MUST now stand up, be heard and take an aggressive role in reversing these disturbing trends or our free society may soon perish.

What possible role can law enforcement play in the Covid epidemic? Police Officers are each sworn to promote and protect the public good. Public Health is a big part of the public good. Covid was the leading cause of death for police officers in 2020 killing six times as many officers as were killed in shootings. Covid is on track to be the top killer in 2021 of police officers. Yet far too many officers throughout the country have refused to take the required vaccine most not for religious reasons or legitimate health conditions. Why refuse a vaccine given to nearly a billion people? Why expose unvaccinated officers to the public and their vaccinated peers. Aren't police officers exposed daily to countless numbers of people who might have or get or give Covid to an unvaccinated officer. Why risk the lives of officers who refuse to comply with mandated vaccine regulations? Why risk the lives of each person that unvaccinated officer contacts each day? NOTE (the above paragraph is a summary of an opinion piece that appeared in the Washington Post written by Patrick Skinner, a police officer from Savannah Ga.)

The Wall Street Journal in a front-page article on November 18, 2021, reported "Annual Drug Overdose Deaths Top 100,000, Setting Records" No one in the law enforcement profession is surprised by that number. The NNOAC has been trying for years to convince the politicians that we have an immediate crisis that needs aggressive action. Few political leaders listen or seem to even care. They release drug offenders from jail and move to legalize or decriminalize pot and in some states nearly all drugs. They tolerate and, in some instances, promote civil unrest. They decry the alarming rise in crime and yet defund the police. They fund "safe zones"



for drug abusers. They take the billions they got from the OXY lawsuits and use that money rarely for any program to combat the drug trade. Will it take 150,000 to die next year for the political leaders to take notice? Not likely unless there is a groundswell from law enforcement and the public to demand action now. What could happen if every police chief or sheriff in the country started a vigorous campaign to persuade the public that the illegal drug trade is destroying their communities. Crime rates are soaring, and illegal drugs and legalized pot are major factors in that alarming statistic. Law Enforcement needs to stop pussyfooting around and become the leader in this effort to combat illegal drugs in each community they serve. The law enforcement leaders who spearhead any such campaign may lose their jobs by speaking the truth but may save their community.

Marijuana as a mental health treatment is being aggressively pushed by advocates for full legalization. Mental health practitioners are prescribing it to treat anxiety, depression, and many other murky conditions. Nearly 20 states have legalized recreational marijuana, and more are sure to follow as promises of additional tax revenue and medical uses prompt many politicians to at least decriminalize if not fully legalize this potent drug's use. As more of our younger population gets addicted to pot some solace can be taken from research that shows pot's use for medical purposes is at best very questionable and in fact may worsen the very conditions that some medical advocates suggest as a reason for legalization. Time and further medical studies might turn the tide on pot use, but many believe legalized pot use everywhere is just a matter of a few more years. We likely will have a generation suffering cannabis use disorder before any real change will evolve in society.

Border security is a tremendously difficult issue. Few want to see images of abandoned children left alone at the border or in camps near the border or in facilities once they cross over. It is difficult to understand with all the resources we have in this country why we can't secure our entire border both north and south and then enact a reasonable policy to allow some controlled immigration and maybe a path to citizenship for the millions here illegally. Law enforcement must do a far better job telling the truth to the voters (not the politicians who mostly won't listen) about all the crime, drug smuggling, and terrorists who pass through our borders every day. Why can't we collect and publish every crime

Sworn to protect, cont.

committed, every drug dealer arrested, every bust for drug use, to make reasonable people maybe finally question the irresponsible politicians who only seek ways to remain in office by catering to their base with their nonsensical policies and legislative enactments.

The sometimes-conservative Supreme Court tossed two excessive force cases against officers in recent decisions, allowed dog sniffs of storage units but issued a 9-0 opinion limiting the "community caretaking" rule stating that "the police do not have broad authority to enter a home without a warrant to check on someone who may be suicidal." Justice Thomas who wrote the majority opinion stated "the right of a man to retreat into his own home and there be free from unreasonable governmental intrusion" is the "very core" of the Fourth Amendment.

*Covid was the leading cause
of death for police officers
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HOW POLICE CAN REDUCE AND MANAGE STRESS

**Many times officers deny the stress they are experiencing
for fear of being viewed as weak or not being able to handle their job**

By Michelle Beshears, Faculty Member, Criminal Justice at American Military University

At some point, everyone feels stressed. But for police officers, who are in positions of authority and making life and death decisions on a regular basis, stress can have a major negative impact on their lives.

One of the biggest problems for police officers is that stress can go unrecognized and unacknowledged. Officers are under constant stress and do not take the time to seek treatment. Many times they deny the stress they are experiencing for fear of being viewed as weak or not being able to handle their job.

For police officers, who are in positions of authority and making life and death decisions on a regular basis, stress can have a major negative impact on their lives. (Photo/American Military University)

WHAT CAUSES STRESS?

Police officers face many different types of stress. According to the National Institute of Justice, the following are work-related and individual factors that are likely to cause stress and fatigue in law enforcement officers.

Work-related factors are caused by:

- Poor management
- Inadequate or broken equipment
- Excessive overtime
- Frequent rotating shifts (Here's why agencies should consider 10-hour shifts to save money and reduce stress.)
- Regular changes in duties (For example, officers often spend one day filling out paperwork and the next intervening in a violent domestic dispute.)
- Individual factors include:
 - Family and relationship problems
 - Financial problems
 - Health concerns

- Difficulties from working second jobs to make extra income

Even more specifically, police officers are likely to be stressed by the daily responsibilities that come with the job. According to the article, “Police Stress: Identifying & Managing Symptoms of Stress,” these stresses are caused by:

- Constant exposure to people suffering distress and pain
- Threats to an officer’s safety or health
- The responsibility of protecting the lives of citizens
- Having to be in control of emotions even when provoked
- The inconclusive nature of police work
- The quickly alternating pace of the job (situations can escalate rather quickly in this line of work)
- The responsibility of owning a firearm

CONSEQUENCES OF STRESS

Just as in any profession, untreated stress can lead to serious consequences. These consequences not only affect the individual officer, but also those with whom the officer has daily contact, such as colleagues, supervisors, friends, family, and the public.

According to “On-the-Job Stress in Policing: Reducing It, Preventing It,” some of the more common consequences of job-related stress reported by police officers are:

- Cynicism and suspiciousness
- Emotional detachment from various aspects of daily life
- Reduced efficiency
- Absenteeism and early retirement
- Excessive aggressiveness (which may trigger an increase in citizen complaints)
- Alcoholism and other substance abuse problems
- Marital or other family problems (for example, extramarital affairs, divorce, or domestic violence)
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Heart attacks, ulcers, weight gain, and other health problems
- Suicide

HOW TO REDUCE STRESS

The good news is that the importance of reducing job-related stress is not going unnoticed by agencies and even the highest level of federal government. In fact, the federal government responded to this problem in the 1994 Omnibus Crime Act where the president and congress recognized the severity of the problem and mandated a federal government response. As a result of this legislation, the National Institute of Justice was assigned the task of sponsoring research on

police stress, establishing pilot programs to help officers and departments deal with police stress, and conducting program evaluations on current programs in an effort to support state and local efforts.

American Military University faculty members Mark Bond, Matt Loux, and Dr. Shana Nicholson have written several articles about how police officers can reduce stress specific to police work. Law enforcement officers can reduce stress by:

- Planning meals and making healthy eating choices. Stop eating high-calorie fast food.
- Scheduling vacations and personal downtime.
- Seeing your doctor regularly for checkups.
- Sharing the workload and reducing the amount of overtime.
- Living within your financial means so that “moonlighting” with a second job is not necessary.
- Creating a realistic exercise program and forming healthy habits to get regular exercise.
- Creating a “Patrol Buddy” program and make time to check on each other.
- Keeping your civilian friends to help you get away from the job. If you socialize with police friends, make a point not to talk about work on your downtime together.

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR STRESS

Not all stress is bad. In fact, it can be positive. It can help officers get out of dangerous situations and it can also motivate individuals to achieve. However, too much stress can affect your emotional and physical well-being and can cause significant problems in your life at home, work, and school. Fortunately, if you are experiencing negative stress in your life there are ways in which you can effectively manage it.

An important way to manage stress is through effective time management. Consider:

- Taking the time to work out a plan to ensure there is a balance in your life.
- Setting aside specified times for your responsibilities.
- Setting goals for yourself and avoiding procrastinating.
- Ensuring you get enough sleep and limiting your use of caffeine.
- Being conscious of your limits and only setting realistic goals.
- Setting aside time for exercise and leisure activities.
- Having a good attitude and finding the upside to whatever situation life might throw at you.

These are just a few suggestions. Your situation is different and as unique as you are. There are some circumstances in

which this might seem impossible, but the key is to keep moving forward and to remain as positive as possible.

Stress is common in all of our lives, but as long as we look for ways to effectively manage it and seek help when we feel we are not able to, we can make it through. Many times, we find ourselves coming out of a stressful situation stronger



than before. The most important thing is to recognize when you feel stressed and work to identify what is causing it. Once stress is acknowledged, officers can work to effectively manage it and not let it consume their lives.

About the Author: Michelle L. Beshears earned her baccalaureate degrees in social psychology and criminal justice and graduate degrees in human resource development and criminology from Indiana State University. She most recently completed her Ph.D. in Business Administration with a specialization in Criminal Justice. Michelle served in the U.S. Army for 11 years. She obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant prior to attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia where she earned her commission. As a commissioned officer she led numerous criminal investigations and worked with several external agencies as well. As a civilian, she has worked with the local sheriff's department, state drug task force and FBI. Michelle is currently an assistant professor of criminal justice at American Military University and is full-time faculty in the School of Security and Global Studies. To contact the author, please send an email to IPSauthor@apus.edu.

10 ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES OF EFFECTIVE LEADERS

Kirk McLean, Lieutenant, Prince George's County, Maryland, Police Department, IACP Fellow

When it comes to the knowledge, skills, and ability to embody leadership qualities, most law enforcement executives have the tools and resources to lead successful agencies. These leaders get the job done while working with their communities to solve problems. Those same executives also excel at effective leadership today partially because of the continued career development and advice they received from successful commanders they worked for in the past. Being an effective leader is a great thing, but being able to articulate why and how one becomes a strong leader adds true substance and depth to the topic. Most law enforcement officials choose to lead within their respective discipline because they want to successfully direct the execution of the agency's mission statement as efficiently and effectively as possible. It clearly makes more sense to have someone who understands the goals and objectives of the department provide guidance and direction than to simply have someone without that institutional knowledge attempt the same. So, whether it's important to have the right people in place to lead in any law enforcement agency is not the question. The question is, instead, what does it take to be the best possible law enforcement leader?

There are 10 must-have attributes that managers (and followers) must possess in order to become highly effective leaders within their organizations.

1. Active Listening

Listening is a quality often not utilized properly as well as a natural talent frequently taken for granted. This innate gift is one in which constant exercise and awareness will put proven leaders at an advantage when it comes to getting the required and expected results from their followers. Listening, in and of itself, isn't what requires exercise—it's how to listen, and whom to listen to that does. How many times have commanders or supervisors attended a community meeting, an interview or conference, and forgotten some of the most important take-aways before even leaving the building? Or, how often have they forgotten an individual's name, almost instantly, after just being introduced to them? According to the U.S. Department of State, "[a]ctive listening is a skill taught to teachers and police officers, counselors, ministers, rabbis and priests. It is a skill we would all do better having learned, practiced."¹ To become an active listener, one must first understand the attributes of active listening:

1. Seek to understand before seeking to be understood.
2. Be non-judgmental.
3. Give your undivided attention to the speaker.
4. Use silence effectively.²

The “who” leaders should actively listen to is all stakeholders. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “[A] genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus, but a molder of consensus.”³ When a leader actively listens to and shows a sincere interest in his or her supporters and followers, the leader’s desired outcomes will also become the consensus of the stakeholders. When the leader listens to, requests feedback, and gains insight from the people that matter, there is a higher likelihood that those stakeholders will buy in to the desired outcomes. Hosting periodic listening sessions with the rank and file is another method through which a leader can solicit valuable ideas from those who handle the day-to-day aspects of the job. In addition, those who buy in to the desired goals will put forth serious effort to see the projects to successful completion. Including all stakeholders when possible and utilizing sound active listening skills will gain buy in to achieve goals.

2. Education

Education is an element of leadership development that is ongoing, regardless of one’s skill as a leader. The list of training development options includes college degrees and certificates, virtual and on-site workshops and seminars, and self-education, among others—educational development opportunities are limitless. No matter where one is in life, learning to better oneself, his or her staff, and the department should never end. A commander should also consider instructing leadership training sessions within their agencies to better prepare the troops to take on leadership roles and to increase morale and efficiency. Experiences that were successful for the commander should be passed on to the line officers. Often, instructors themselves learn in the training environment through interaction with the officers who are being trained. If done correctly, this form of training for officers could be part of an agency’s succession planning process.

3. Attention to Detail

Having a broad conceptual knowledge of the agency is, of course, important, but a strong leader is also aware of the details, such as knowing which personnel are best at what types of assignments. Law enforcement executives need to master this skill in order to build crucial relationships within the agency and community; to enhance the performance of the agency; and to build legitimacy and, thus, buy-in from the officers and the community.



For example, if a station commander presents a crime plan to his or her chief and other peers at a meeting, attention to detail in that presentation will most certainly be one of the determining factors in whether the chief believes in the commander or the plan. If that commander can present concrete information on how to address the community problem, the solution is more likely to be accepted. In contrast, if that commander simply did not conduct research, overlooked key details, and presented material in a broad context, chances are the desired outcome will not be achieved. Before presenting material to any group, a good leader needs to be able to manage details well enough to answer all questions that could surface. Demonstrating attention to detail also suggests to stakeholders that the leader is equipped to handle the issues at hand.

4. Directions

Directions provided to a subordinate are only as good as the method and manner in which they were given. An outstanding leader gives clear and consistent instructions. To do this, the leader has to understand the audience for his or her directives and needs to ensure that the message is received correctly. Often, it is effective to put directions in email or other written form, allowing the opportunity to review the document in roll-call or small settings, checking for understanding and answering questions to ensure the tasks are completed with minimal errors. This manner may seem redundant but people interpret information differently. Removing distractions and providing the information in the best possible environment will help the police executive ensure that the communications are received and understood. Remember, an excellent leader has to communicate effectively in order to be understood.

5. Evolution

The ability to evolve and adapt can turn a good leader into a high achieving leader with a loyal following. Once

commanders feel secure in the way they have always conducted their business of directing, controlling, budgeting, inspiring, motivating, and so forth, it's a sign that it might be time to reinvent (or update) their leadership style. Chances are, the leadership styles police executives started with in their early career would have to be tweaked to keep up with the incoming generations and in order to attain personal growth. For example, younger generations relate and interact well with more recent technology such as virtual devices and social media platforms, so leaders have to adapt and educate themselves on a broad spectrum of the various forms of technology to become more relevant and to inspire and be inspired by these new officers. Police executives not only lead the members of the police departments, but they also help lead the community. The commanders have to relate to and communicate with all community members in ways that community members are familiar with, in order to relay the messages that they need to receive. A leader that can evolve and adapt to the ever-changing times is a leader that other leaders want to emulate.

6. Resourcefulness

Being resourceful, clever, and innovative is particularly important when it comes to solving complex or tedious projects. Resourcefulness is certainly necessary when managing and leading any group of personnel within a law enforcement agency—if commanders cannot creatively lead their team to accomplish objectives despite potential obstacles, how can they mentor and guide the troops looking to them for skill development? Developing the followers' skills requires that leaders recognize followers' full potential by maximizing their performance skill sets and encouraging them to think outside of the box.

7. Service

Service is something all law enforcement officers know they professionally provide to the communities in which they serve. This community service is necessary from the most visible form of government representation—but there must be internal service to complete the concept. Managers must also serve the followers that serve on the front lines and who will become the future leaders of the agency. Commanders should ask their staff what the staff's needs are and what would make lives better in the performance of the staff's duties. The bosses may be surprised about some of the responses they'll receive when taking this approach because the replies will mostly be manageable requests. Serving the followers lets them know the managers truly care, and it provides much more incentive for productivity and morale to increase across the board.

8. Humor

Humor is perceived and delivered differently by everyone, and some people are naturally wittier than others. This social skill can work wonders with trust and morale if executed in a timely and appropriate manner. A Bell Leadership Institute study found that

The most effective leaders use humor to spark people's enthusiasm, deliver an honest message in a good-natured way, boost productivity, put people at ease, bring teams together, and see the light side of a situation. Less effective leaders use humor in negative ways—to show off, cut people down with sarcasm, and overly distract people from the task at hand.⁴

The key here is to know one's limitations when attempting to tie humor in with law enforcement because leaders should not make fun of another's tragedy. Leaders should never demean or belittle any victim or circumstance because that attitude reflects negatively on the agency. For example, if an officer jumped into a body of water to save the life of a drowning citizen and lost one of her boots in the process, then the fact that the officer saved the life of that citizen should overshadow the missing footwear. A strong leader would praise the officer's efforts and most certainly give her the remainder of the day off to reflect, recover, and, of course, time to purchase more service boots. After things had settled, that would be an appropriate time to employ humor about the talented officer who saved a life—while wearing only one boot! Striking such a balance between recognizing the seriousness of the work the line officers perform with humor when the situation warrants it is an attribute that leaders should strive to achieve.

9. Integrity

The strong morals and honesty demonstrated by a leader with integrity will reinforce the agency's mission statement and the community's expectations of professional policing. Without integrity, there is little hope for trust and legitimacy to be perceived by the officers or the community. The 2015 report by President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing stated,

Law enforcement agencies should acknowledge the role of policing in past and present injustice and discrimination and how it is a hurdle to the promotion of community trust.⁵

This is one definitive way to display integrity and commitment to the community. An agency that has a reputation for having officers with integrity is an agency that has the trust of the community.

10. People

People are the foundation on which leadership is built—good leaders cultivate good followers. People need to be praised in public for a job well done, and they appreciate when leaders see beyond their uniform to individuals with personal interests and concerns. Also, people need to be coached in order to become better and more comfortable in their positions, and, at times, they need to be motivated to continue pursuing outstanding performance and congratulated on reaching successful goals. An effective leader discovers the strengths of individuals and helps them utilize those strengths, thus increasing both performance and morale. If a leader is a “people person” and remains humble, the leadership role will become exponentially simpler. Quite frankly, putting people first is something that an effective leader can’t overlook. Listening, Education, Attention to detail, Direction, Evolution, Resourcefulness, Service, Humor, Integrity and People (LEADERSHIP) are the key ingredients to successful leadership. Of course, no two commanders lead the same way, but if each of the LEADERSHIP attributes are applied in one’s management style then the basics are covered. Law enforcement officials must be successful in carrying out their duties while managing others; attempting to lead without a strategic plan should not be an option. Understanding how to personally and effectively incorporate these attributes into one’s management style certainly develops with practice, but it should not be overlooked. Appropriately applying the LEADERSHIP concept amounts to a win-win for the agency, the followers, the leader, and the community. Developing and improving these attributes will put any leader on the road to success.

Notes:

1 U.S. Department of State, “Active Listening,” <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/65759.htm>.

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www.bluehelp.org



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#IWillListen #IWillTalk

Join the movement and commit to listen AND talk

Blue H.E.L.P.’s **#IWillListen** and **#IWillTalk** Campaigns call upon police officers throughout the country to join us as we SMASH THE STIGMA that prevents women and men of the law enforcement profession from seeking mental health services as early as possible. By making the commitment to listen and talk to one another we can create a culture where it’s OK to talk about mental health and wellness.

[DOWNLOAD THE SCRIPT](#)

Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report Released 2021 Was Deadliest Year for Law Enforcement Officers in History

National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund reports fatalities increased 55% in 2021 over 2020, with Covid-19 fatalities the leading cause of deaths

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 11, 2022) – The number of law enforcement professionals nationwide who died in the line of duty in 2021 increased 55% over the previous year, according to preliminary data provided by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), the leading authority on officer fatalities.

NLEOMF announced in its official [2021 Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report](#) that as of December 31, 2021, 458 federal, state, county, municipal, military, campus, tribal, and territorial officers died in the line of duty during the past year, representing a 55% increase over the 295 officers who died in the line of duty in 2020. In the category of “Other” causes, which includes 301 Covid-19-related deaths, the number of fatalities is 338, an increase of 63% over 2020’s line-of-duty fatalities in this category.

“This time of year always reminds us of the sacrifice of law enforcement and the importance of our mission to honor the fallen, tell the story of American law enforcement, and make it safer for those who serve. The year 2021 will go down as the year of the most line-of-duty fatalities since 1930 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and increases in traffic fatalities and firearms ambushes,” **said National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund CEO Marcia Ferranto.**

Most significant in the *2021 Fatalities Report* are the number of officer deaths in the category of “other” causes, which increased 63% over the number of deaths from other causes in 2020 due to officers who died from contracting Covid-19 in the line of duty.

In addition to the 301 Covid-19 deaths, 37 officers died from other causes, including 25 officers who died in the line of duty from health-related illnesses, such as heart attacks, strokes, and 9/11-related illnesses. In addition, 4 officers were beaten, and 4 officers drowned in 2021. There were 2 officers stabbed to death, 1 was killed when their patrol vehicle was swept away by floodwaters, and 1 was killed in a tornado.

In addition, 45 federal officers, 7 territorial officers, and 3 tribal officers died in the line of duty this year. Only 10 states and the District of Columbia did not lose an officer this year.

There were 417 male officers killed in the line of duty, and 41 female officers. The average age of the fallen officers is 48, with 17 years of service. On average, officers left behind two children.

There are currently 22,611 names of officers killed in the line of duty inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC,



↑ 55%

Law Enforcement
**Line-of-Duty
Deaths Up
Approximately
55 Percent
in 2021**

dating back to the first known death in 1786. The deadliest year on record for law enforcement was 1930 when 312 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty.

The statistics released are based on preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and do not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2022.

NLEOMF CEO Marcia Ferranto and Troy Anderson, Executive Director of Officer Safety and Wellness, will be addressing the public **via Livestream at 8:00am Eastern today** about the findings. To watch the Livestream, tune into the [NLEOMF Facebook page](#) or [watch on YouTube](#).

For a complete copy of the *2021 Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report*, go to: [LawMemorial.org/FatalitiesReport](https://lawmemorial.org/fatalitiesreport).

To schedule an interview, contact Colby Jordon at 601.664.2010, or via email at colby@cirlot.com.
<https://nleomf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-EOY-Fatality-Report-Final-web.pdf>

Firearms-Related Fatalities

Firearms-related fatalities claimed the lives of 62 officers in 2021, a 38% increase compared to the 45 officers killed in firearms-related incidents in 2020.

Of the 62 firearms fatalities:

- 19 were ambushed and killed
- 8 were investigating suspicious activities or persons
- 7 were attempting an arrest
- 7 were killed responding to domestic disturbance calls, which led to a tactical situation and an ambush
- 7 were disturbance calls, which led to a tactical situation
- 3 were killed during traffic enforcement, which led to an ambush
- 3 were fatally shot responding to burglary or robbery in-progress calls
- 3 involved drug-related investigations
- 2 were killed during tactical encounters
- 2 were inadvertently and accidentally shot and killed
- 1 was killed during an encounter with a suicidal subject.

Traffic-Related Fatalities

Traffic-related fatalities increased 38% with 58 deaths in 2021 compared to 42 deaths in 2020.

Of the 58 traffic-related deaths:

- 19 were automobile crashes involving a collision with another vehicle or fixed object
- 9 were single-vehicle crashes
- 27 were struck-by fatalities
- 3 officers have been killed in motorcycle crashes

Top 6 States with the Largest Number of Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities

- Texas experienced the largest number of law enforcement officer fatalities of all U.S. states with 84 line-of-duty deaths
- Florida had the second highest number with 52 officer deaths
- Georgia had the third highest number with 39 officer deaths
- California had the fourth highest number with 24 officer deaths
- North Carolina had the fifth highest number with 21 officer deaths
- Tennessee had the sixth highest number with 18 officer deaths

Courtesy of NYPD...



In a breathtaking Sea of Blue, thousands of NYPD officers honored their fallen brothers **Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora**.

Jason -22, along with his partner Wilbert Mora -27 were ambushed and killed during a domestic violence call, by a career criminal in February.

Both men were in their twenties, both so full of hope and proud to serve their communities.

NYPD Detective Wilbert Mora (above) wanted to be a police officer his whole life. He achieved his dream, and his work allowed so many others to achieve their dreams. He was an organ donor who saved five lives after his death.

To his family, loved ones, and brothers and sisters at the NYPD 32nd Precinct: Your loss is our loss.

We will never forget his sacrifice.

A son, newlywed husband, and friend. **NYPD Detective Jason Rivera (next page)** paid the ultimate sacrifice for his community.

Jason was reportedly among the youngest police officers to be killed in the line of duty. Please join me in praying for his wife, family, and fellow NYPD officers.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK

November 30, 2020

From: Probationary Police Officer, Company #20-62
To: Commanding Officer, Police Academy
Subject: **WHY I BECAME A POLICE OFFICER**

1. When I applied to become a police officer, I knew this was the career for me. I would be the first person in my family to become a police officer. Coming from an immigrant family, I will be the first to say that I am a member of the NYPD, the greatest police force in the world. Growing up in New York City, I realized how impactful my role as a police officer would go in this chaotic city of about 10 million people. I know that something as small as helping a tourist with directions, or helping a couple resolve an issue, will put a smile on someone's face.

2. Growing up in Inwood, Manhattan, the community's relationship between the police and the community was not great. I remember one day when I witnessed my brother being stopped and frisked. I asked myself, why are we being pulled over if we are in a taxi? I was too young to know that during that time, the NYPD was pulling over and frisking people at a high rate. My perspective on police and the way they police really bothered me. As time went on, I saw the NYPD pushing hard on changing the relationship between the police and the community. This was when I realized that I wanted to be a part of the men in blue; better the relationship between the community and the police.



Jason Rivera-
Probationary Police Officer

LR/1



NYPD



**POLICE OFFICER
JASON RIVERA**

32nd Precinct
New York City Police Department
End of Watch January 21, 2022

Fidelis Ad Mortem

'OUR STORY IS YOUR STORY, AND THIS IS OUR HOME'

Support the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Today

By: Marcia Ferranto, Chief Executive Officer of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund was established in 1984 as a non-profit and non-partisan organization that honors law enforcement officers, tells the story of American law enforcement, and makes it safer for those who serve. Law enforcement professions are the heart and soul of our organization.

We operate under three pillars: the memorial where we honor the fallen, the museum where we tell the amazing stories of American law enforcement, and officer safety and wellness where we do our part to keep names off the wall.

Pillar One: The Memorial

The Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors 22,611 officers who have died in the line of duty throughout the United States. Unlike any other memorial in Washington, D.C., this wall is a living memorial, meaning we add names each year to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Sadly, we recently expanded the wall to accommodate the growing number of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Our job at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is to make sure this wall remains in place for our fallen brothers and sisters. We will never let their stories be forgotten.

Pillar Two: The Museum

The National Law Enforcement Officers Museum expands and enriches the relationship between law enforcement and the community by sharing stories of service and sacrifice across the nation.

The museum offers innovative, insightful, and thought-provoking programs designed to spark dialogue and deepen the understanding between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Museum is your museum. Our goal is to make sure that when you step foot on our campus, you feel honored and respected, and when you come with your families, we want them to be so proud of the profession you've chosen. This museum exists to honor you.

Pillar Three: Officer Safety and Wellness

Our Officer Safety and Wellness Program recognizes best practices through our Destination Zero Awards Program. Our ultimate goal is zero deaths of personnel in the line of duty, and our focus is to improve the safety and wellness of police officers and to keep officer names off of the wall.

We maintain a comprehensive database of creative, innovative, and successful programs, and we make this database free to all law enforcement agencies from around the country.

We also work with our federal partners to support key programs in police officer suicide prevention, traffic safety and collision reduction, and community policing to improve the safety of police officers and the citizens they serve.

Support As We Grow Together

As CEO of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, it is my goal and the goal of the Board of Directors to make sure that we serve you in a way that you feel honored and respected. Our goal to build your trust one step at a time.

We need your support to grow together as we continue to honor our law enforcement across the country. We want you to come visit the museum designed to honor you and share our story. Our story is your story, and this is our home.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund exists for you, your fellow officers, and your agencies. You are the heart and soul of our organization.





ROG THE DOG Animal-Assisted Therapy

Supporting the health and well-being of those who serve our communities

First responders experience higher rates of depression, PTSD, burnout, anxiety, and other mental health issues*, compared with the general population. As public safety's partner, FirstNet®, Built with AT&T has a responsibility unlike any other wireless carrier to deliver for the first responder community. That's why we established the FirstNet Health & Wellness Coalition.

And that's why we've gone beyond our commitment to build and operate FirstNet to introduce the ROG the DOG Animal-Assisted Therapy Program. Therapy dogs are proven* to:

- Have a positive impact on mental and physical health
- Improve coping and recovery
- Enhance morale
- Decrease stress
- Impact PTSD and emotional distress

To learn more about this kennel of trained Labradoodles who specialize in animal-assisted therapy for first responders, go to [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com).

To request a ROG the Dog, please call customer care or email your request to dl-rogthedog@att.com.



*Purvis, M., Fullencamp, L. & Docherty, M. (2020). Animal Assisted Therapy on Law Enforcement Mental Health: A Therapy Dog Implementation Guide. Bowling Green University.

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EXECUTIVE WELLNESS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LEAD FROM THE FRONT?

By Anna Fitch Courie

Director, Responder Wellness, FirstNet, Built with AT&T

About a year before I left my job working for the U.S. Army, a General Officer I had known died suddenly, shortly after retiring. I wish I could say this was the only tragic story of a great leader dying after giving their time, talent and purpose to take care of their people and mission. But it's not.

Those in high-stress careers have a lower life expectancy than the general population. That means the work you're doing now is having an impact on your body. Leadership can take a toll. And while public safety is stressful, leadership in public safety can be exponentially more so.

Stress is a silent killer. Yes, stress can be good to a certain degree. It heightens awareness. It focuses our attention so we can achieve specific goals. And in dangerous situations, it's the body's defense mechanism to keep us safe and help you respond with precision. But this message can be misleading for professions that are chronically stressful. We take stress for granted because it comes with the territory. And we need to rethink this, especially in leadership.

"Sheepdog" professions

LTC (Ret) Dave Grossman, author of *On Killing* and *On Combat* (among other titles) calls public safety "sheepdog" professions or protector professions. I look at this cohort of professions (military, law enforcement, fire, EMT, dispatch, etc.) as those that run towards trouble instead of away from it. That commitment is inherently stressful. And the chiefs and directors who lead these professions have a level of stress that has a compounding effect on their bodies.

We started 2021 thinking that we were putting the stresses of 2020 in the rearview mirror, but as we've seen, stress is a part of the new norm. However, that doesn't mean there aren't things we can do to live and manage our stress. Let's take a look at the impact of chronic stress on the human body and then look at what we can do about it.

Stress increases the hormone cortisol and that constant stream of cortisol is tough on cardiovascular (heart) health. First responders have a higher risk for cardiovascular disease than the general population. The effects of chronic stress, shift work, sometimes sedentary work, coupled with a poor diet lead towards a high mortality rate associated with

cardiovascular disease.¹ And while heart health is an issue for all public safety, it's important for chiefs to think about their own health and not just the health of their people.² Let's talk about why.

Lead from the front

You know the health of your people is vital to the responsiveness of your organization. Officers who are healthy and resilient are more likely to respond effectively in high stress situations than those who have not addressed chronic health issues. Health matters in the ability of officers to do their jobs. Your health is just as important. You cannot effectively lead officers to be healthy, if you yourself are not making it a priority in your life.

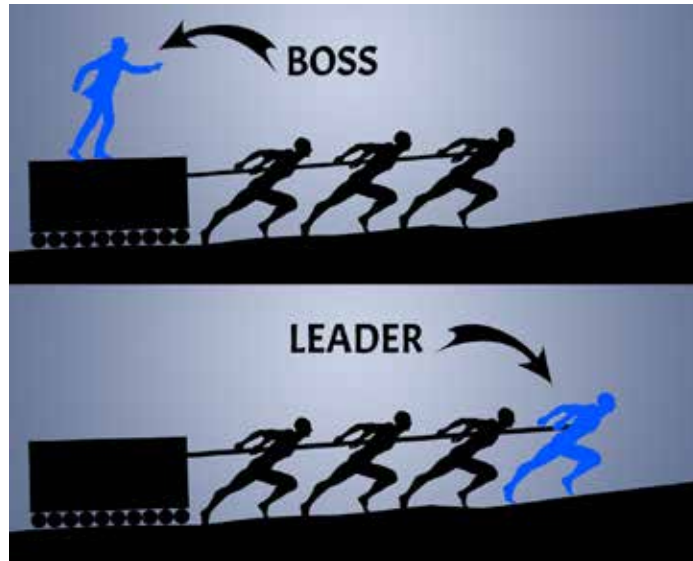
We should not ask our subordinates, peers, or associates to do anything we wouldn't do ourselves. So, if you are encouraging your people to take care of their mental and physical health, you need to do the same. You will be more effective at your job when you take the time to take care of yourself.

Your subordinates are watching. They want to see if your deeds match your words. It will be hard for your junior officers to take their mental and physical health seriously if they don't see you prioritizing your own. Your behaviors drive the culture you want to see in your organization. People are more likely to take action with healthy behaviors when it's knit into the department's culture, starting at the top. A recent survey of first responder needs conducted by FirstNet, Built with AT&T, revealed that first responders want to see their leadership engaged in health and wellness. One individual remarked, "Leadership needs to be involved with this [health and wellness] at the same level as other staff and provide funding and participation that shows their real support."

Remember your purpose

We know organizations that collaborate in healthy endeavors build a sense of community and belonging. Relationships built around a common theme, such as health and wellness, help develop a community of resilience. And this is critical to the success of public safety in executing their mission.

**Those in high-stress careers have a lower life expectancy than the general population.
That means the work you're doing now is having an impact on your body.
Leadership can take a toll. And while public safety is stressful,
leadership in public safety can be exponentially more so.**



Reflect on why you got into public safety. Odds are you did it out of a desire to serve and protect. That's the reason you get up and go to work every day. And the gift of leadership lets you tap into those values to guide the people you lead. People who see value and meaning in the work they do are more satisfied, have higher resiliency, and feel a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to make a difference. You're not in your leadership position by happenstance. You are there for a reason. And you can use that to drive the transformation you want to see.

Get your checkups

You already live the stressful life that public safety seems to take for the norm. That means there will be impacts on your body as you get older. You will be more prone to injury and illness – especially if you're not taking time for self-care. As you age, things like high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, and stroke became real threats. Getting regular checkups with a professional lets you keep an eye out for these risk factors, so you can continue to age with grace and verve.

Don't put these habits off until you retire or "have more time." These habits are central to your personal health and the health of your organization. So, this is your opportunity to shift a trend where hard-charging, dedicated leaders work hard, give their all and then die of a heart attack. Let's change that. Whether you are a junior officer working your way up the ranks, or a seasoned leader, taking time for your health and wellness is a critical aspect of your professional development. Make time for it.

I challenge you to work on these habits. You'll see a personal benefit – and your organization will as well. I want to help you improve your own health. So, that one day you can enjoy and thrive in a retirement you richly deserve.

Dr. Anna Fitch Courie, Director of Responder Wellness, FirstNet Program at AT&T, is a nurse, Army wife, former university faculty, and author. Anna holds a Bachelor's in Nursing from Clemson University; a Master's in Nursing Education from the University of Wyoming; and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Ohio State University. She is a passionate Clemson football fan; loves to read, cook, walk, hike; and prior to COVID19, was an avid traveler.

(Endnotes)

1 McKeon, G.; Steel, Z.; Wells, R.; Newby, J; Hadzi-Pavlovic, D.; Vancampfort, D. & Rosenbaum, S. (2019). Mental health informed physical activity, for first responders and their support partners: a protocol for a stepped wedge evaluation of an online, codesigned intervention. *BMJ Open*.

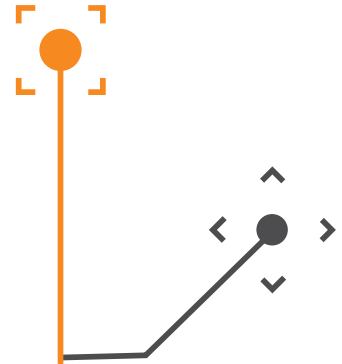
2 Zimmerman, Franklin H. MD Cardiovascular Disease and Risk Factors in Law Enforcement Personnel: A Comprehensive Review, *Cardiology in Review: July/August 2012 - Volume 20 - Issue 4 - p 159-166* doi: 10.1097/CRD.0b013e318248d631

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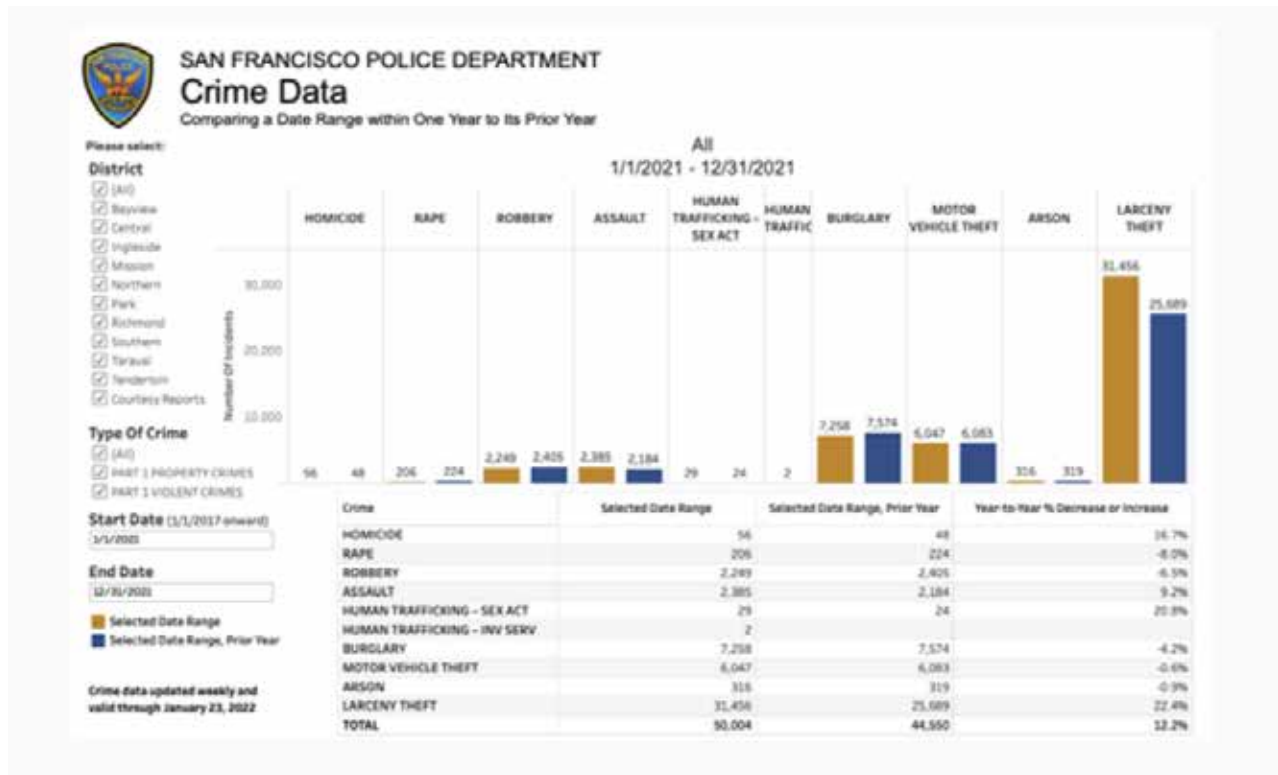
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WHAT CRIME REPORTS AND RATES DON'T TELL US

FEBRUARY 01, 2022 STEVE SMITH

Last week the San Francisco Police Department issued its crime statistics report for 2021 also known as COMPSTAT. Modeled on the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and divided into two parts graded by seriousness they give us a picture of reported crime in the City of San Francisco. Unlike the UCR, COMPSTAT doesn't report crime rates which are useful when comparing political entities of differing size. Instead COMPSTAT tells us how many crimes were reported.



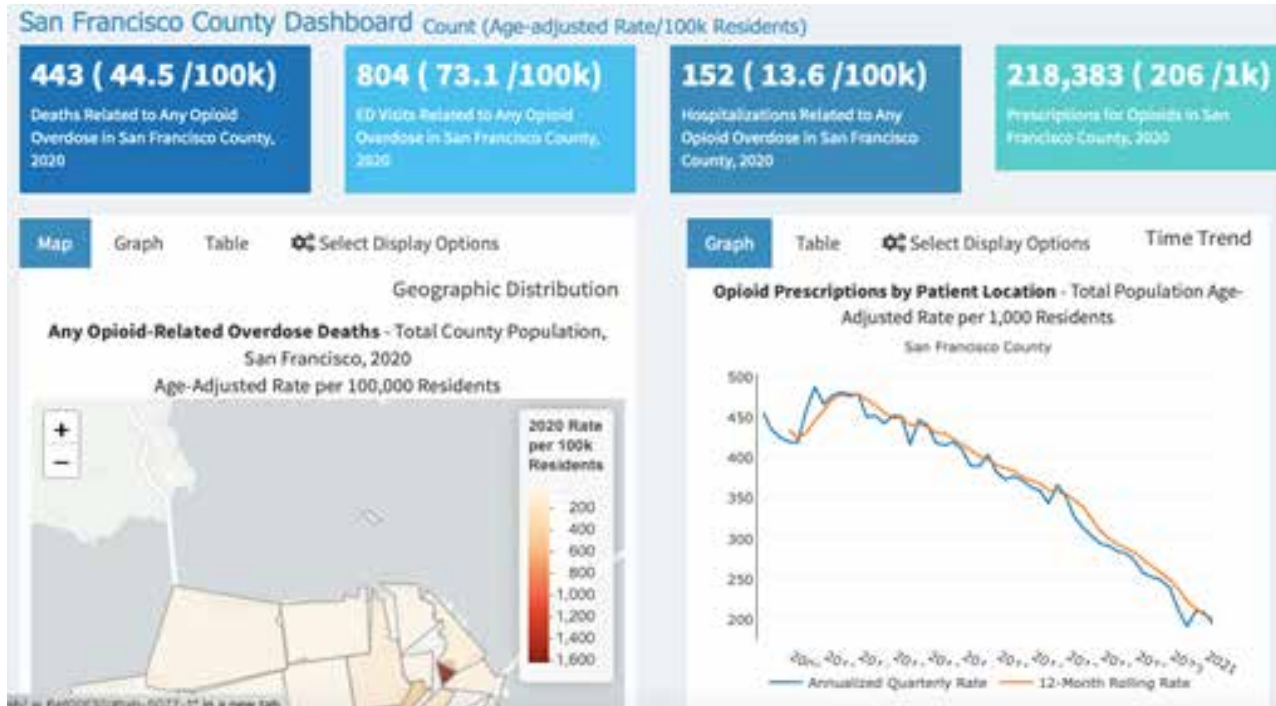
TOTAL REPORTED VICTIMIZATION IS UP

There are encouraging signs, such as 36 fewer vehicle thefts, 316 fewer burglaries, 156 fewer robberies to name a few. However, the total number of crimes reported in San Francisco are up. Most alarming is that homicides are at 56, up from 48 the year before – a rate consistent with California's highest crime cities. Assaults are up 201 from 2184 in 2020 to 2385 in 2021. January 2022 isn't complete but preliminary figures indicate no significant improvement.

Total reported victimizations in San Francisco are up 12.2% from 44,550 in 2020 to 50,004 in 2021.

TOTAL FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES ARE TRENDING UP

In 2020 San Francisco County had a State leading high fatal overdose rate of 44.5/100,000 population making it, by far, the deadliest County in California in terms of drug deaths. Nearly all of those 443 deaths are occurring in one neighborhood – the Tenderloin – where nearly two people die per day of a fatal overdoses. Preliminary 2021 fatal overdose numbers are not improving. These numbers are not reflected in either the UCR or COMPSTAT because, like suicide, it is not a crime in and of itself unless it can be proven that the person(s) providing the drugs did so with some form of criminal intent or gross negligence.



California District Attorney’s rarely charge drug dealers for causing the death of their victims with the exception of Santa Clara County which has done so twice. In the most recent case the suspect is 16 years old and the suspect was 18 in the other, which brings into consideration the exploitation of juveniles by criminal organizations and street gangs. This is something made harder to investigate and prosecute by recent California criminal justice reforms.

San Francisco Police are reporting repeat arrests of the same dealers and that the period of Incarceration for San Francisco drug dealers is just 18 days. For their victims it is, of course, a sentence of death. And yet, District Attorney Chesa Boudin seems more interested in the effects of Covid on inmates only 246 of whom have died statewide since the outbreak while nearly 80,000 Californians have died. On December 17, 2021 Mayor Breed, over the objection of District Attorney Chesa Boudin, has declared a civic emergency in the Tenderloin.

VICTMIZATION RUNS MUCH HIGHER THAN REPORTED CRIME

The flaw in either the UCR or COMPSAT reports are that these are offenses known to law enforcement. The difference between actual victimization and reported victimization is the so-called “dark figure.” What is known about victimization is that it runs much higher than reported crime. Based on the National Crime Victimization Survey – 54% of all crime is not reported to the police. This figure is higher for violent crime and lower for property crimes. In some cases it is policy for retailers not to report crime due to liability and cost of prosecution. In others its frustration over a perception that the system does not work. Reducing the “dark figure” and encouraging participation in the criminal justice system has been shown to reduce victimization and should be a goal of policy makers. It will also result in a more accurate picture of crime in America.

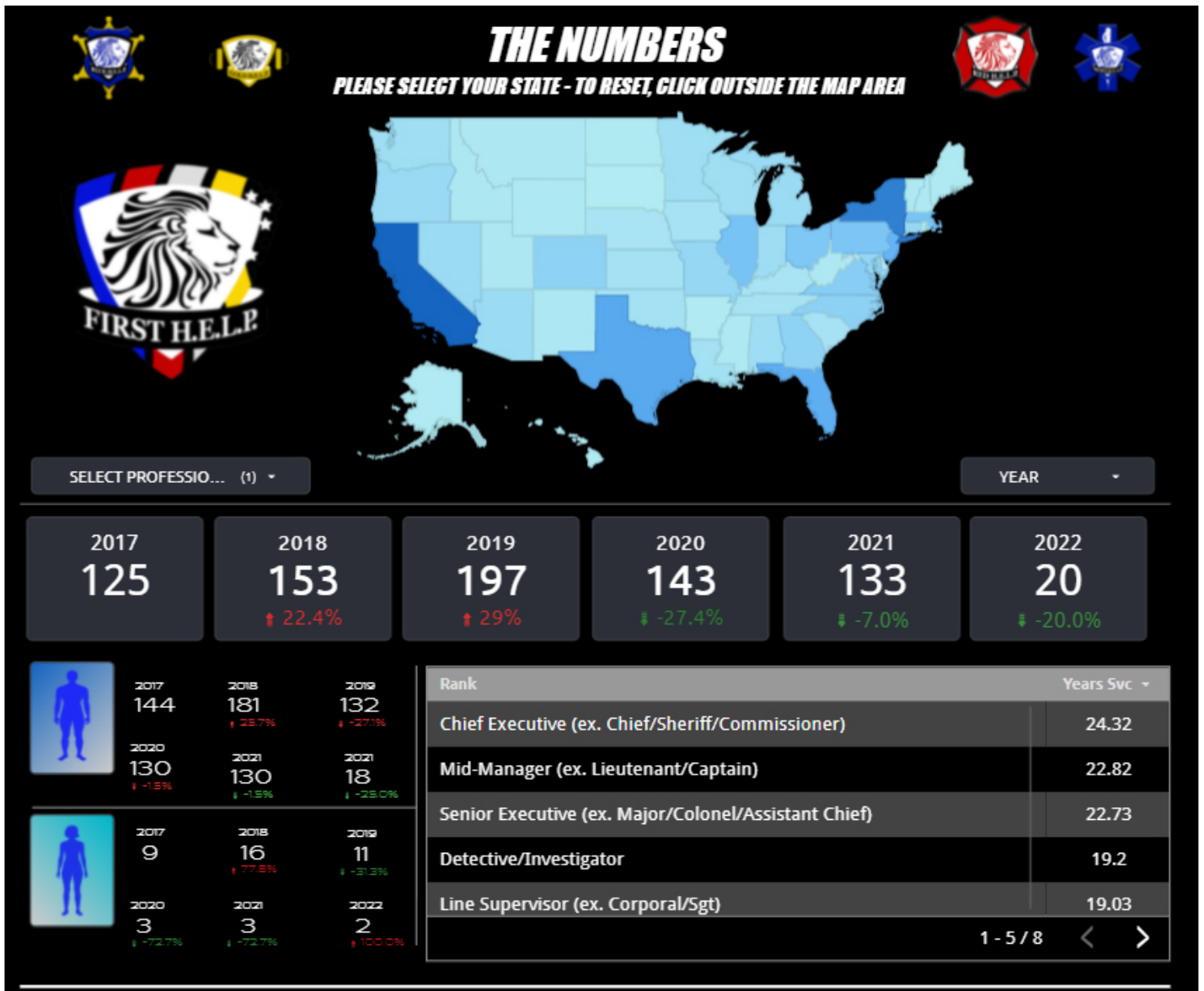
MASS VICTIMIZATION

Critics of the criminal justice system like Mr. Boudin, often complain of America’s “mass incarceration” problem. He recently Tweeted that his father had been released from prison after serving a 40 year sentence for his part in the murder of three men. Certainly, there are compelling examples of injustice, wrongful conviction, racial bias, and inordinately long sentences for nonviolent offenders. And those wrongs should be corrected.

Still nationally 8.9 million crimes were reported in 2020 and millions more unreported. Billions of dollars are lost to thieves and fraudsters. Counted and uncounted innocent lives are affected. And it’s not their fault – at all. Politicians and justice officials should remember and consider this when developing legislation and policy.

Steve Smith is a senior fellow with the Center for Urban Renewal at the Pacific Research Institute.

Please visit <https://bluehelp.org/the-numbers/> for all current data on first responders who have died by suicide.



Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention: How to Use this Toolkit

A Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention Toolkit was developed and distributed to all Florida law enforcement agencies in October of 2007. This Toolkit was designed with input from many law enforcement officers, deputies, and troopers, as well as subject-matter experts to help you present suicide prevention training within your department, reduce the stigma associated with seeking help, and to encourage your officers to roll backup for each other.

The Florida RCPI has uploaded these resources to its Web site for your use. Digital copies of the printed materials that were provided in the Toolkit are here for download and printing. All have space for localization: your agency seal/logo; name; phone numbers and other contact information for EAP, Peer Support, CISM, Chaplaincy, Psychologists/Counselors/, etc.

You may produce as many copies as you like for free distribution within your agency or for other law enforcement agencies as long as you do not change the text or delete the credit. Some printers will need to see written proof that you have permission to print or copy these materials before they will proceed with the job; this page serves as that permission. You may add your agency's name, address, phone number, and Web site where space is provided.

You can research cutting edge articles on the issue of law enforcement suicide. PowerPoint presentations, model policies and procedures, best practices, research, and recommendations are included.

Hotlines

<i>Copline</i>	1-800-267-5463
<i>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</i>	1-800-273-8255
<i>Veterans Crisis Line</i>	1-800-273-8255
<i>Cop 2 Cop</i>	1-866-267-2267



Please browse through this information frequently to learn more about how to develop a strong program within your agency.

For more information, contact the partners who developed this kit:

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Executive Director Teresa Tate
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BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

The Coalition

Comprehensive Framework for Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention



*Click on page to view the entire report
or copy and paste link above.*



*2021 was the deadliest year on record
for law enforcement officers,
please pray those who are left behind
find peace and forgiveness.*

