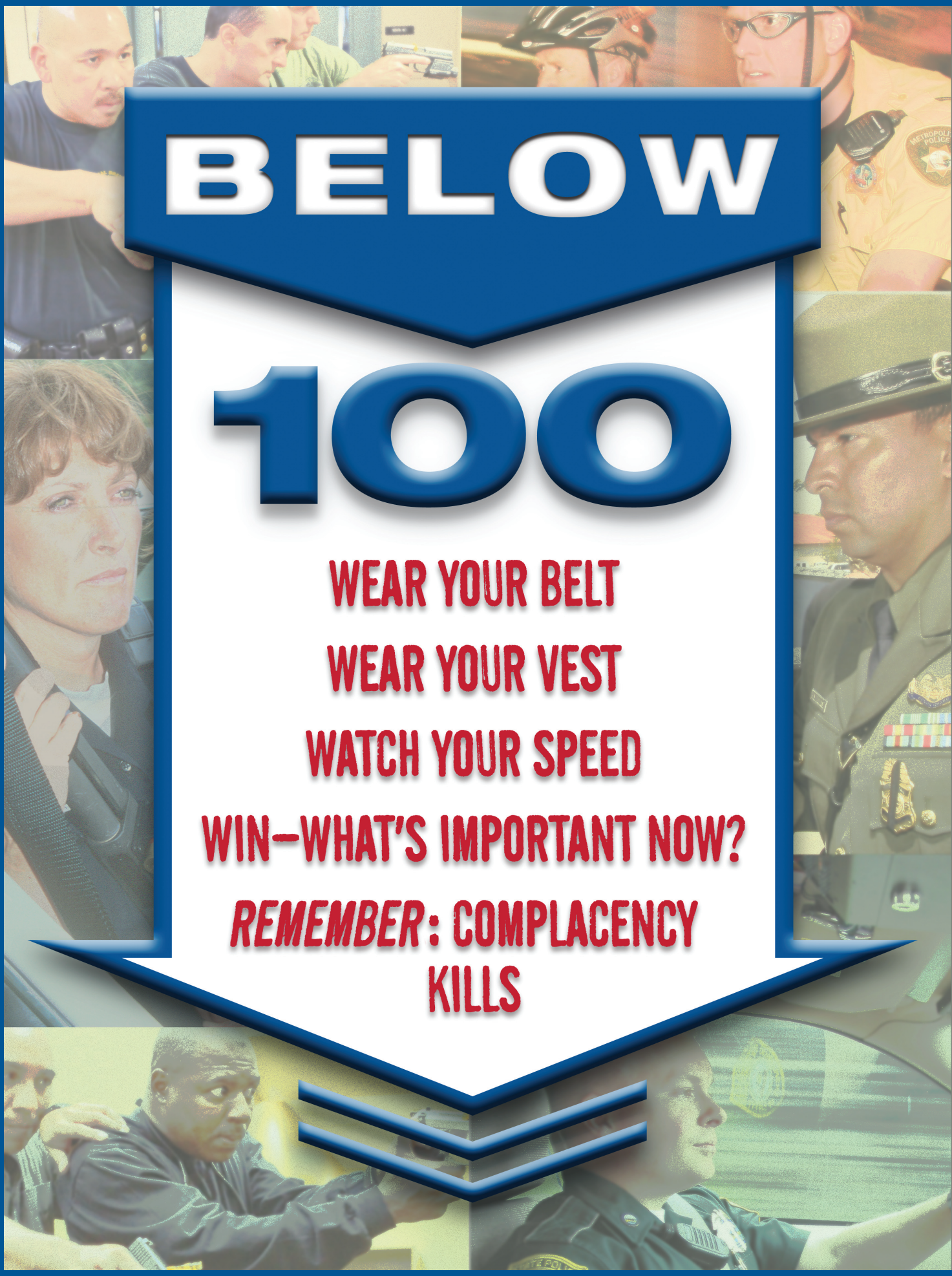

BELOW
100
WEAR YOUR BELT
WEAR YOUR VEST
WATCH YOUR SPEED
WIN—WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW?
REMEMBER: COMPLACENCY KILLS

AN INITIATIVE TO CHANGE OUR PROFESSION—& YOU

>> EDITOR'S NOTE

Like many good ideas, *Law Officer's* Below 100 initiative came out of a conversation around a dinner table. Several contributors and friends were enjoying a dinner together at this year's International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) Conference as a challenge began to circulate: What can be done now to reduce law enforcement deaths? This conversation continues today and it's evolved into Below 100, an initiative that aims to reduce the line of duty deaths to below 100, a number not seen since 1944.

By Dale Stockton

The five tenets of Below 100 are emblazoned on the opposite page. These are the five keys we've identified to make officers safer. For each point, I've reached out to its natural advocate, the people I trust most to convey the message. Capt. Travis Yates of the Tulsa, Okla., Police Department covers seatbelts and speed. Chief Jeff Chudwin of Olympia Fields, Ill., covers complacency and the importance of body armor. Calgary Police Service veteran and Deputy Executive Director of ILEETA Brian Willis covers the all-important WIN question, What's Important Now? Gordon Graham, a law enforcement veteran, well known expert on reducing risk and co-president of Lexipol LLC provides an overview of risk reduction in law enforcement. And last but not least, Marcus Young, the premier trainer and advisor on the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) program, provides personal insight from his life-and-death encounter plus information on the LEOKA training program.

Below 100 is not about statistics. It's about each and every officer, trainer and supervisor taking individual and collective responsibility for the decisions and actions that contribute to safety. For those in a leadership position (most of you), this means promoting a culture of safety throughout your department. Make doing the right thing so ingrained in your personnel that it becomes the norm. Just as importantly, hold accountable those who stray outside what should be common sense. The following pieces drive home the importance of each tenet.

Finally, Below 100 is a challenge that recognizes each death as a tragedy, while recognizing the nature of our work. It's our duty to face down danger and protect the innocent when called to do so. It's a fact: Good cops will die each year. But working together—and only by working together—we can keep our streets and ourselves safer.

>> BELOW 100

What we can do now to save officers' lives

The subtitle of this initiative should be "What can we do to reduce the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in the U.S. to less than 100?" Those of you who are math majors will recognize that's a significant drop. 2010 so far hasn't been a good year in our profession, with more than 120 deaths already tallied. Each of those "numbers" involves a very sad story about an individual who had dedicated his or her life to the business of protecting society. They died while doing it.

Each LODD is tragic, but some of them hit harder than others because the involved officer/deputy/trooper/agent was someone you knew personally. This year my former department, the California Highway Patrol, has lost several officers. A couple of those were men I worked with, and proudly.

By Gordon Graham

I hate to say this, but we are on track in 2010 to lose 150 officers. This is a huge number. When I read Editor-in-Chief Dale Stockton's challenges in his Below 100 editorials, I got fired up: I know we can do something about this, and I want to do my part.

For those of you I've been fortunate to meet over the years, you know what my pitch is on this (and any other) issue. It all gets down to managing risk. If we can identify risks, we can put together control measures to address those risks. What control measures can we put in place *today* to reduce the number of line-of-duty deaths to a number less than 100? This would be a reduction of more than 30 percent, and that would be a huge drop. It won't be easy, but we can do it. I'll prove that now.

The Way Forward

1973: the year I joined this noble profession. Here's another number for you taken from 1973: 269. That's the number of LODDs in law enforcement in 1973. *Read*: The year I got into the business, we lost 269 law enforcement personnel!

Now for those of you who are having difficulty with the

→→

numbers (Lieutenant!), in 1973 we had 269 deaths and in 2009 we had 127 deaths. That's more than a 50% reduction. You can talk to anyone in the business or check the "accumulated data" yourself, but less cops are dying today than when Stockton and I signed on, and when *Adam-12* was the new hit cop show.

Here's some further data for you to consider. The number of aggravated assaults against law enforcement personnel has gone up significantly since 1973—yet the number of LODDs has dropped dramatically.

How can this be? Assaults are up and deaths are down? I don't think anyone ever said "Below 250" in 1973. Or "Below 200" in later years. But somehow we did it. What control measures were put in place to reduce the numbers so dramatically? There are several, but here are the big three:

1. Better training;
2. Better personal protective equipment; and
3. Better basic and advanced life support.

The Way Forward

Certainly, training's improved big time since those "early days." Check out the "Newhall Incident" from my department. Four young CHP officers were murdered in 1970 in Newhall, Calif., in large part because they weren't properly trained.

This lack of training was a national issue in the 1970s. Some very smart people put control measures (specifically, more frequent and realistic combat-related training) in place and that's made a significant improvement in safety.

Better personal protective equipment has benefited us greatly also. Better guns, bullet-resistant vests, head protection and patrol cars (including better seat belts and safer interiors) have made a huge difference.

Regarding the basic and advanced life support issue, next time you see a paramedic, make sure you thank them. Their actions in BLS and ALS have dramatically helped in reducing LODD deaths.

Below 100

So what can we do now to reduce these deaths below 100? Here are my three thoughts on what we need to do *today*. Perhaps you have seen these before: better training, better personal protective equipment and better BLS/ALS.

Although the available training has gotten better, we must improve upon it. The focus must be not only on skills and accuracy, but also knowledge of law and policy. I think some of our LODDs are related to gunfire and other assaults get down to hesitation on the part of the involved officer—hesitation caused by having to think rather than act. Establish your "memory markers" and "behavioral scripts" through constant and rigorous training that focuses on when to shoot.

That's why I am a big fan of daily (that's right, *daily*) training in law enforcement. Training must focus on the "core critical tasks" (*defined*: high-risk, low-frequency, no time to think), including "shoot/don't shoot." *Important*: Every day must be a training day! We must ensure our people know how to respond when involved in a life-threatening situation. Verification of this knowledge must happen frequently.

Regarding equipment, I'm sad to tell you that too many cops are being killed in vehicular operations. When you look at the causes of these deaths, it comes down to "speed too fast for conditions" and "failure to wear the seatbelt." So we must focus on reducing speed and wearing the seatbelt.

Frankly, I am absolutely fed up with the vehicle deaths—and you should be also! Talk to your peers and anyone else who will listen about these two issues until you are blue in the face. And set the example for others! Simply wearing seatbelts and driving at a reasonable speed will reduce LODDs dramatically.

Finally, although the BLS/ALS is great, I think we can improve on medical services by learning how to "self treat" and provide BLS to wounded colleagues. I'm happy to see a lot of focus on carrying compresses and tourniquets and other paraphernalia that will slow down the flow of blood after a serious injury. Take advantage of these items and have them with you all the time. It goes without saying—but I'll say it anyway—training and instilling a basic self-treat mindset is an absolute necessity.

Conclusion

So let's do some round numbers. Assuming 2010 will generate 150 LODDs, how can we reduce that number by 51 and get "Below 100?" I think we could instantly reduce the numbers by 30 by having everyone buckle up all the time. Period, end of story. That brings us down to 120. I think the number of our officers killed by gunfire could be reduced if cops recognized threats more quickly, had a quick John Boyd OODA (observe, orient, decide, act) loop in their head, retreated when necessary, and knew how to get sufficient rounds downstream with accuracy during a gun fight. This can be pretty much summed up by embracing the WIN (What's Important Now?) concept of Below 100. I'm pulling this number out of the air here, but I believe we can reduce those deaths by 10.

We have 10 more to reduce, so let's focus on situational awareness when outside of our vehicle on or near a roadway. See www.respondersafety.com for some great control measures in this arena. *Remember*: Complacency kills! So according to my math if we drove slower, wore the belts religiously, were aware of approaching and passing traffic, and approached every person we contact knowing we may have to make a massive withdrawal of "memory markers" to eliminate the threat—and when we do these things consistently—I'm absolutely convinced we can break the 100 barrier.

I also look to you for your thoughts. I'm just an old retired guy who's tired of bagpipe music and after-action reports. If you have some thoughts, share them with Stockton and the good people at *Law Officer*. Working together we can break the "Below 100" barrier.

Until I see you again, please take the time to work safely.

GORDON GRAHAM is co-president of Lexipol LLC, a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and an expert in risk management. He holds a juris doctorate from Western State University.

WEAR YOUR BELT WATCH YOUR SPEED

With so much you can't control on the road, give yourself a fighting chance

By Travis Yates

June 14, 2010, was a seemingly routine day for Joshua Nytch, a 31-year-old police officer with the New York State Office of Mental Health Police. As he responded to the report of a missing mental patient, he approached a busy, six-lane intersection with a red light. He slowed, changing the tone on his siren and obtained acknowledgement of his presence from every driver he could see. As they yielded, Nytch proceeded through the intersection and was struck by a vehicle that appeared from behind a row of traffic. The driver never saw the officer. Nytch was unable to avoid the collision.

His car was struck on the passenger-side front-quarter panel, sending the patrol vehicle spinning out of control. The impact propelled Nytch violently into the radio console, injuring his legs and hips. He had made the same decision that many other officers have and continue to make: He was not wearing his seat belt.

Deadly Combination

When you combine a lack of seat belt with high speeds, you have the deadliest epidemic our profession has seen since the gun violence from three decades ago. It's that deadly epidemic that took the life of Reeves County, Texas, Deputy Jacob Rayos on April 11, 2010. While looking for a suspect vehicle near Interstate 20, Deputy Rayos was traveling at a high rate of speed and left the roadway. His patrol vehicle rolled several times before coming to rest on all four tires. Deputy Jacob Rayos was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle. He died at the scene and became LODD No. 52 in 2010.

Sadly, there have been many incidents like the one that claimed Deputy Rayos, and they have resulted in countless unnecessary deaths over the years. The collisions involving Officer Nytch and Deputy Rayos are just two examples of a deadly secret that plagues law enforcement. Although violence against our profession is certainly a huge issue, excessive driving speed and failing to wear safety belts is continuing to kill officers every year at numbers that are greater than the losses attributable to gunfire. This is absolutely senseless.

Craig W. Floyd, chairman of the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, made

The officer who was driving this patrol vehicle lost control due to excessive speed. Use of a seat belt and the wearing of body armor contributed to his survival.

(Note: This is not a picture of the accident described by the author.)

headlines in 2006 when he announced that officers not wearing seat belts could be a reason why officer deaths in vehicles had risen from the previous year. It's unfortunate that his statement holds true today.

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Data states that 39% of the officers killed in vehicle collisions since 1996 were not wearing their seat belt. Moreover, 42% of the fatal law enforcement vehicle collisions involved a single-vehicle crash striking a fixed object off the roadway. Think about this for a minute. The officer ran off the road and struck an object. The death was just as absolute, the loss just as great as if the officer was killed by a determined assailant. The difference is that these deaths are much easier to prevent than those caused by attacks on officers. Of course, the "data" isn't the whole story. These are the lives of our heroes in uniform who leave grieving spouses, children and coworkers. It's time to end the deadly epidemic of excessive speed and a lack of seat belt usage.

Now, imagine taking the leading cause of line of duty deaths for the last 13 years and cutting the deaths in half with just a few behavioral changes? It can be done without millions of dollars in funding and thousands of hours of training. That's the reality of what would occur if we, as a profession, decided that enough is enough.

Wear Your Belt

In light of what we now know, we must scream it from the rooftops: *Every law enforcement professional, no matter their rank or job, must wear their seat belt at all times.*

This will take more than a policy. It will require education. We must train our officers about why they must wear seat belts, as well as how they can exit their vehicle quickly even while wearing their seat belt.

The most common excuse is that the belt will get tangled up with equipment or a uniform badge which would prevent a quick exit of the vehicle. Although that excuse may have some merit, the action of not wearing a seat belt because of it is just not valid. We must practice taking our seat belt off, pulling it away from our belt and uniform and letting it coil into place as our vehicle comes to a complete stop. This simple technique would enable us to have an option to exit the vehicle quickly while also wearing a seat belt.

Watch Your Speed

The old adage that "speed kills" not only applies to citizens but law enforcement as well. The job in law enforcement certainly entails the occasional high speed response or pursuit, but in a general practice this must be limited to those times when it's necessary. *Remember*: Just because you can doesn't mean you should. If the road conditions are not ideal and/or vehicle traffic is heavy, driving at high speed is hazardous at best and negligent at worst. If we aren't familiar with the roads or the geography around us, we have no business driving fast. The arrival time is likely only affected by seconds if we slow down. The risk isn't justified and our profession has paid dearly—speed is truly deadly. The phrases "killed while responding to a call" or "lost control" are all too common and entirely without justification.

Conclusion

Officer Joshua Nytch was fortunate. Although injured from the impact, he was able to exit his vehicle and administer first aid to the driver of the other vehicle. He understands that if he would have been struck from another direction that he probably would've been killed. Seat belt usage has now become a part of a behavioral change he wishes every officer and law enforcement agency would place a high importance on.

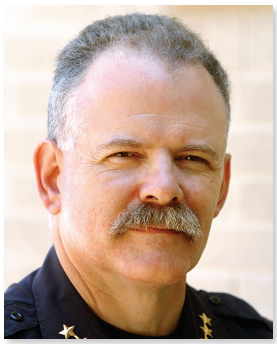
"The job of a police officer is dangerous enough," says Nytch. "There is no need to compound that danger because of our own sense of invincibility."

Indeed, the times of "invincibility" are officially over. They must be if we ever expect to get our LODDs below 100.

TRAVIS YATES is the 2008 Law Officer Trainer of the Year and is a captain with the Tulsa (Okla.) Police Department. He has been involved in police driver training since 1996. His Web site, www.policedriving.com, is dedicated to EVOC.

WEAR YOUR VEST

Armor Up: Every Officer's Mandate



By Jeff Chudwin

I remember the first body armor developed by Rich Davis of Second Chance Body Armor Company. It was the early 1970s and armor consisted of a double set of ballistic nylon pads. Kevlar was yet to come on the scene. I still have a set of that nylon armor we shot with a .38 revolver. The 158-grain lead bullet bounced off, and we were convinced.

In 1980, it was my good fortune to travel to Second Chance in Central Lake Michigan, where I would spend the next 19 summers attending the Second Chance Combat Shoot. Richard and I became great friends and he regularly invited me and other officers to the factory and gave us an education about the manufacture and capabilities of soft and hard plate body armor.

I also met many of the officers who had been shot and survived because they wore their armor. These meetings led to a movie on body armor saves, and I was asked to interview officers and deputies from around the nation. What an incredible experience!

I discovered that officers saved by their armor all had two vital things in common. First, they made the choice to wear their body armor every day, every shift. Second, every officer I spoke with said that *at no time did they expect to get shot* when their incident occurred. There was no warning, just gunfire directed at them. *Note*: This is well over two dozen officers all saying the same thing. This pretty much shoots a big hole in the belief held by some that they can carry their vest with them and put it on when it's needed.

Their calls ran the gamut: traffic stops, domestics, search warrants, suspicious person, man with a gun,

etc. Some calls were dangerous on their face and some weren't. Many of the officers returned fire successfully after being shot. Some were shot more than once and not all rounds hit their armor, but they remained committed to their survival and success, and they won.

The Case of Marcus Young

No better example of this is Sgt. Marcus Young (Ret.), of the Ukiah, Calif., Police Department. Sgt. Young is one of my heroes and a personal friend. We met at ILEETA some years ago, and I learned of his amazing street battle against a hardcore criminal bent on murdering him. His incident can be found by searching "Marcus Young incident" on www.lawofficer.com. It's a must-read for all officers.

Body armor coupled with a fierce warrior spirit and a well-trained mind and body allowed a critically wounded Sgt. Young to fight on, overcome and ultimately kill his attacker. Today Sgt. Young works with a FBI/DOJ program presenting information on officers killed in the line of duty (LEOKA). This publication details the murders and assaults of officers nationwide and is published every year. Sgt. Young presents his story and his findings at locations around the country. It's highly regarded training and offered at no cost.

For more on Sgt. Young's important work and life experience, turn to p.44.

It Won't Happen Here

There are those who say that "nothing happens here." *Translation:* You have not been attacked or in a serious auto crash—*yet*. Numerous officers have been saved in auto crashes by their armor, so it's not just a gun or edged weapon threat to be concerned about. We must not allow complacency to be our downfall.

Let's look at the upside of wearing your body armor:

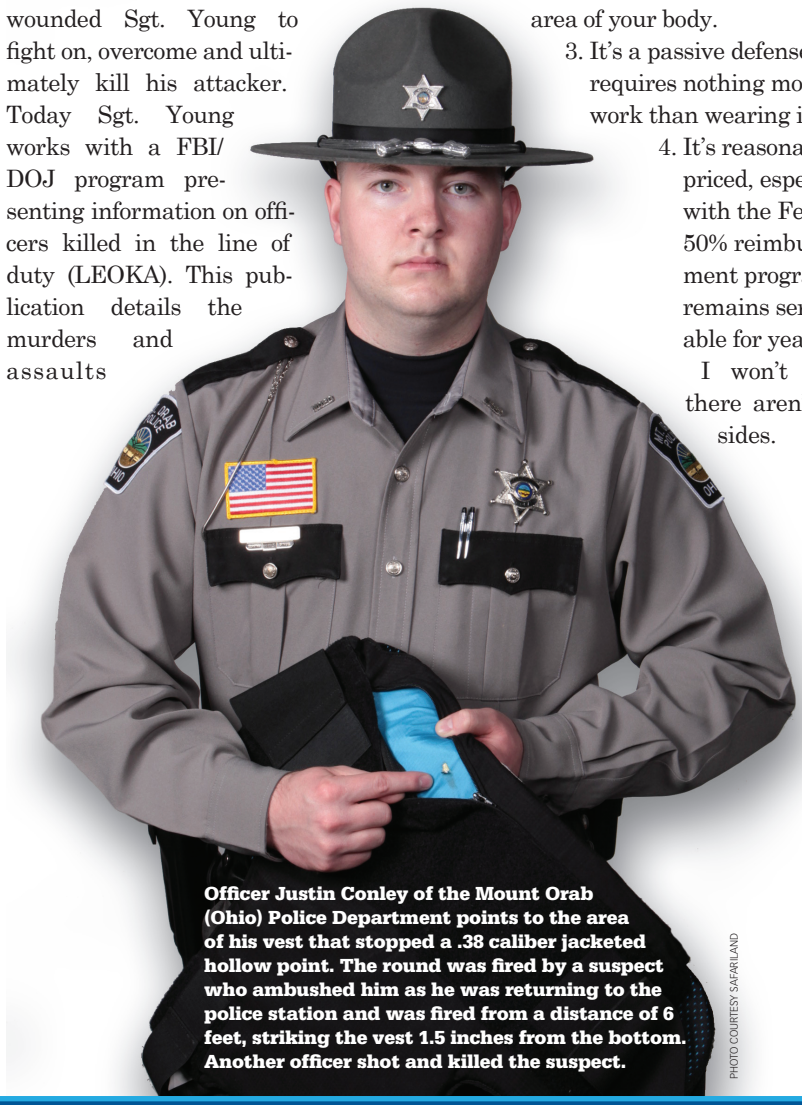
1. Body armor can and will save your life.
2. It will allow you to fight on when you have been shot in a protected area of your body.
3. It's a passive defense that requires nothing more to work than wearing it.
4. It's reasonably priced, especially with the Federal 50% reimbursement program and remains serviceable for years.

I won't pretend there aren't downsides. In hot weather, body armor can be uncomfortable. Sweat streams down your body and your T-shirt, pants and shorts are soggy. Yes; but having holes shot in your body is worse.

Ultimately, the issue is whether or not the armor is worn. Do we allow the officer to make that decision or do we mandate it? As the lead officer in my agency, I've made the wearing of body armor mandatory for my street officers. When I go out, I wear mine. You can't have two standards, one for bosses and one for officers. "Lead by example" must be the motto of command officers. For those of you who are field training officers and work for an agency that doesn't have a mandatory wear policy, you must remember that your attitude about body armor will affect every trainee. Set the right example by wearing your armor and make sure every trainee understands that armor should always be worn.

We can't think that we'll wear it when we need it. Letting the armor sit in our car or locker is simply unacceptable. I remember an incident in which a deputy arrived at a domestic call without his armor on. A senior deputy told him to "go get it and put it on." Minutes later the offender ambushed the now-armored deputy and shot him in the hip and over the spine. The vest saved his life.

Why do I know this? Because this incident occurred a few miles from my jurisdiction. Sadly, I also remember officers and deputies who have been killed with their vest sitting on the seat or in the trunk of their squad car.



Officer Justin Conley of the Mount Orab (Ohio) Police Department points to the area of his vest that stopped a .38 caliber jacketed hollow point. The round was fired by a suspect who ambushed him as he was returning to the police station and was fired from a distance of 6 feet, striking the vest 1.5 inches from the bottom. Another officer shot and killed the suspect.

PHOTO COURTESY SAFARILAND

Conclusion

We have a choice. Through planning, training, mindset and commitment we can perform our sworn duty under the most dangerous conditions. We can be protected at all times by our armor. In fact, we must. Let's join together and make this commitment to armor up. Do it for yourself, for your fellow officers who might have to rescue you and for those who care about you.

BELOW 100

WIN—WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW?

The question that will ground your present & determine your future

By Brian Willis

WIN is a simple but powerful acronym that represents what I believe is life's most powerful question—What's Important Now?

I first came across this question in the book *Winning Every Day* by Lou Holtz. It was a philosophy Holtz sought to instill in his athletes to help them prioritize the choices they were faced with daily. As law enforcement professionals we must take a lesson from Coach Holtz and apply this powerful philosophy in our lives. Everyday, in our personal and professional lives, we're faced with decisions, some more critical than others. The choices we make have a lasting impact on our health, relationships, careers and finances. In order for us to achieve excellence in our lives, we must ask ourselves this simple question throughout every day: what's important now?

This one powerful question allows us to prioritize decisions, choices, actions and events in our personal and professional lives. It keeps us safe, and makes us better leaders, trainers, spouses and parents. The question "what's important now?" requires you to consider the present with an eye to the future.

The Importance of Now

"We can learn from past failures and mistakes," said legendary manager Joe Torre, "but we shouldn't get stuck there. We can keep future goals in mind, but we shouldn't get stuck there, either. The only way to reach our potential is to focus on what we must do now—this moment, this day— to perform effectively and win."

These choices you face every day can vary greatly in difficulty and long-term implications. Some are relatively easy: Large or extra large coffee? Regular or premium gas? White wine or red?

Others get to the core of what's important to you in your life. Do you spend time every day engaged in personal development activity, such as working out or reading? Do you continually hangout with the people from work at the end of a shift or do you go home and spend time with your family? Do you do what's right or what's popular? Do you take responsibility for your actions and decisions or do you look for someone and something to blame?

Still others are unique to the profession of law enforcement: Do you rush in to make the arrest, or wait until you have sufficient backup? Do you terminate the pursuit when the risk is too great or stay in it regardless? Do you engage in a foot chase or a foot-surveillance? Do you talk or do you fight? Do you close the gap and use empty hand control, or maintain distance and use an intermediate weapon? Do you shoot or not?

This question is particularly pertinent to vehicle operations. Do you drive within your limits while responding to emergency calls, or do you push the envelope? As you exit your vehicle at a traffic stop are you so focused on the target vehicle that you step into oncoming traffic or ensure it is clear first? Directing traffic at night, do you pay attention to the activity of medics at the scene and fail to realize that their emergency lights are interfering with the vision of oncoming traffic thereby placing you at risk of being struck by a vehicle? Or do you conduct a continuous risk assessment of the scene to ensure the safety of all emergency services personnel?

The philosophy of WIN can serve as a powerful guiding principle in every aspect of law enforcement, including leadership, training, officer safety, investigations, interviews, incident command, fitness, continuous learning, allocation of resources, time management, professionalism and career development. It will have a pronounced impact on how you treat members of the public, peers, superiors and subordinates. Having the WIN mindset will save officers' lives.

In order for us to achieve excellence in our lives, we must ask ourselves this simple question throughout every day: WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW?

As you go throughout your day, your career and your life, remember WIN, and let life's most powerful question guide your decisions. You will be happier and safer. It's definitely worth it, so WIN!

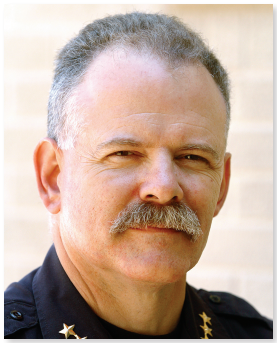
BRIAN WILLIS is the deputy executive director for International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association. He draws on his 25 years of law enforcement experience as a member of the Calgary Police Service and more than 19 years of training experience.

BELOW 100

REMEMBER: COMPLACENCY KILLS

Complacency & the risks of denial

Where do we, as police officers, draw the line between complacency and denial, readiness and paranoia? Read the daily reports of officer-involved shootings, motor vehicle accidents, fights, assaults and every other threat. Consider the locations of these incidents and the picture could not be more clear: No matter where you wear the uniform and drive a squad car, the threat is universal, even if the terrain is different.



By Jeff Chudwin

English poet John Keats wrote that "Nothing is real 'till experienced." I would add that there are experiences *you will not survive* if you aren't prepared mentally and physically. Complacency will kill you.

Face Reality

The difficulty in any life-safety training is to have the officers truly accept that these threats are real. There's no wakeup call as clear and loud as when you suffer violence directed at you, or when you come close to falling off the edge of the proverbial cliff. When your hands and knees stop shaking and you realize how close you came, reality will be upon you. After such an event, you may accept and embrace this new vision of life and make your actions conform to the recognition that danger is ever present. Most do, but for how long?

After a prolonged shootout that resulted in the wounding of officers and the killing of the offender, I spoke with officers of the agency at various times. Immediately after the event, all were at a high state of readiness. As months progressed, I asked how things stood. *Answer*: Some officers were returning to the prior thinking: Nothing will happen here. A year later, many officers expressed that the event was now out of sight and out of mind.

Keats had it right: When we're forced out of our comfort zones and put at risk, it all becomes real. To stay real, you must believe that the threat exists against you.

Complacency is a third-person issue: It only happens to others, so I need not fear. Complacency is among the most dangerous and insidious threats we face, because it lays us open to all the others.

You Are Not a Statistic

We have those who argue statistics. If you cling to statistics to determine readiness, then leave your handgun in your locker and head out onto the streets, because, by the numbers, there is almost no chance you will be involved in a gunfight. While you're at it, don't train. Why waste the time and money? Not going to happen to you, so don't stress out.

COMPLACENCY WILL KILL YOU

I refuse to accept this line of thinking, and I urge you to do the same. When the possibility becomes the reality, statistics are rendered meaningless. Develop safety habits and practice them every day, every shift. Carry what you need and know how to use it all under extreme stress.

Take the time to discuss with your shift partners what they expect will happen and how they will react. It may be far different in reality, but the discussion is vital. When we discuss and imagine, we buy into the realities that exist. We confirm that we won't be uniformed observers, but capable and competent police officers, willing to meet the test. *Remember*: Many will arrive later, but for those few life- and-death moments, you are it.

If you've lived a life of readiness, then success, while not certain, is far more likely. If you've lived a life of denial and complacency, disaster, while not certain, is more probable. The message is as old as Scripture: You reap what you sow. For those who see law enforcement as a profession, you will be a professional. For those who see it as a paycheck, there's a safer, easier job for you out there.

Constant Reminders

Consider this pre-shift checklist:

1. Inspect your firearms and gear at the beginning of every shift. Keep all clean and lubed.
2. Ensure weapons are loaded and ready. Inspect all ammo you load in magazines.
4. Press-check your pistol and inspect your magazines every day.
5. Be certain all battery-powered devices are charged or operating at full power. Carry extra lights and batteries.
6. Carry a good folding rescue knife, an extra radio battery, gloves and glasses.
7. Check and maintain your squad car: It's your life raft and gear locker.
8. Go armed and ready at all times. As my long-time mentor John Farnam says, the fight will be a "come as you are" event, so dress for success.
9. Clear your mind of the daily distractions and remind yourself, today is the day.

JEFF CHUDWIN the 2009 Law Officer Trainer of the Year, serves as chief of police for the Village of Olympia Fields, Ill., and is a founding member and current president of the Illinois Tactical Officers Association.

BELOW 100

>> LEOKA PROGRAM TRAINS LEOS HOW TO PREVENT LAW ENFORCEMENT DEATHS

By Marcus Young

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes the LEOKA annual statistics regarding law-enforcement personnel feloniously killed, accidentally killed and assaulted while performing their duties. The objective of the LEOKA program is to assist law-enforcement personnel in the identification of training issues to prevent assaults, reduce injuries and prevent law-enforcement deaths.

In 2008, there were 61,087 assaults upon law enforcement personnel in the U.S. Of those assaults, 80.8% were personal weapon attacks (i.e., hands, feet, fists) and 3.8% involved firearms. LEOKA statistics[1] from 1999–2007 revealed a total of 549 victim officers feloniously killed, which 508 were murdered with firearms. The primary weapons of choice by offenders in the felonious killing of officers were handguns (368 of 508).

A Scenario

Imagine yourself in the following scenario: It's Friday at about 9:40 p.m. You're an experienced officer wearing a distinctly marked police uniform with a badge on the left side of your chest. After arriving at a business to conduct a theft investigation, you have taken a female into custody for theft and a felony warrant. You're in the process of placing a seatbelt on the female prisoner who's seated in the right rear of your patrol car, and a security guard is yelling your name. You walk about two parking stalls away from your marked unit toward a male subject quickly approaching. The suspect is a gang member with an extensive criminal history. You've taken the offender's girlfriend into custody. The offender's intentions are to ambush and kill you. The suspect is in possession of a concealed handgun and a hunting knife.

>> The injuries sustained by Sgt. Marcus Young were photographed shortly after the shooting. There was no doubt that the body armor he was wearing saved his life. Sgt. Young, despite his injuries, was able to return fire and kill his assailant. He later was recognized as the IACP Officer of the Year and was awarded Medals of Valor by both President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger. Read the detailed account of his incident by going to www.lawofficer.com, and keyword searching "Marcus Young."

How would you prepare for this violent encounter?

I was the well-trained officer described in the above scenario. Although I made errors, I ultimately won the fight for my life. I sustained five gunshot wounds—one through my head, three to my front and back torso, and one to my right upper humerus, which shattered. During the struggle, my left hand was physically ripped apart about an inch and a half between the middle and index fingers. The body armor ultimately stopped two of the .38 caliber rounds, minimizing injury enabling me to end the fight. I trained regularly and wore body armor religiously throughout my career.

Free Training

FBI LEOKA[2] research involved 131 cases, 156 officers and 135 offenders. These case studies, combined with analysis of FBI UCR statistics are invaluable tools for trainers, supervisors and managers. The FBI CJIS Division provides a free FBI LEOKA Officer Safety & Survival Program training nationally. LEOKA instruction[2] includes analysis of video interviews of offenders who have killed and violently assaulted peace officers. Some commonalities between these criminal offenders were pre-attack assessment, improvised training and the willingness to commit violence against law enforcement.

In the *Violent Encounters* research[3], one offender de-

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TRAINING REQUESTS

Please forward written requests for the Officer Safety & Survival Training to Section Chief Robert J. Casey, FBI Complex, Module E-3, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, WV 26306-0150. Please e-mail written requests to Rob.Casey@leo.gov and provide a copy to Melissa Blake at Melissa.Blake@leo.gov. The letter should include the law enforcement organization, proposed date, training location and number of law-enforcement participants. The FBI provides training at no cost, but requests host agencies to advertise training regionally.

scribes how he "sized up" the officer, quickly forming the opinion he could "take" the officer. This suspect was armed with a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and was determined not to return to custody. Another offender describes himself as being a "lion in the desert" having the predator mentality. This offender studied law enforcement mannerisms, traits and behaviors. He practiced handcuffing escape techniques, with which he escaped from a handcuffed position, armed himself and shot the officer.

In Sum

As law enforcement trainers we understand the value of skill development through ongoing training of fundamental techniques (e.g. firearms, force options, physical skills) to instill proficiency and confidence. By creating realistic, scenario-based training environments we are conditioning officers for successful outcomes, while preparing them physically, psychologically and emotionally for the unexpected life-threatening encounter. Recognizing pre-attack indicators and characteristics of an armed gunman may prevent an assault from occurring.

Wearing our body armor may reduce injuries related to personal weapon attacks, blunt trauma injuries and firearm assaults, including saving lives. Please continue to inspire those you lead as trainers to wear protective body armor.

References

1. UCR LEOKA Statistics: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm
2. Miller, Charles, E., Hanburger, Henry, Sumeracki, Michael, and Young, Marcus. (2010). The FBI's National Law Enforcement Safety Initiative. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, Jan. 2010, p. 22-31. http://www.fbi.gov/publications/leb/2010/january2010/safety_feature.htm
3. Miller, Charles E., Pinizzotto, Anthony J., and Davis, Edward F. (2006). *Violent Encounters: A Study of Felonious Assaults on Our Nation's Law Enforcement Officers*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

MARCUS YOUNG, M.A., is a 20-year veteran of law enforcement. In 2004, Marcus was selected as the Officer of the Year by IACP. As a National FBI LEOKA Instructor, Young can be contacted at marcus.young@leo.gov.

BELOW 100 is an initiative that's just gotten started, but it's already gained incredible momentum. At *Law Officer*, we are absolutely convinced that this effort is both critical and timeless. There will be much more information as we go forward but here's one small glimpse of what's in store—watch for a Train the Trainer program delivered at the next ILEETA conference (April 2011). In the interim, you can find out more by going to www.LawOfficer.com/Below100.

BELOW 100

The Below 100 web site contains additional information and resources:

- Below 100 poster for download
- Below 100 postcard for download
- Articles/feature stories

Please visit:
www.LawOfficer.com/Below100

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