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THE COALITION

THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION



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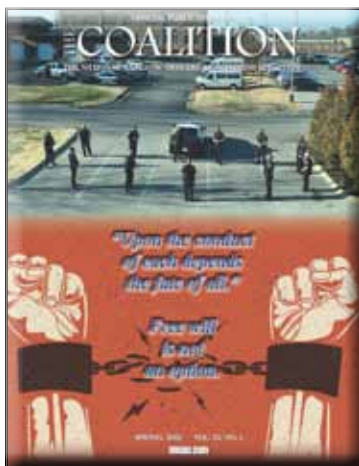
Grieving law enforcement officer standing at a new grave dissolves between the thin blue line and the black and white divided American Flag Image by Dreamstime ©196006231

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President's Message

By Bob Bushman



Fall, 2021

Moving into Fall 2021, NNOAC members and our partners are still suffering the effects of the COVID pandemic. Just as we were beginning to get back to our regular routines, the COVID variants are causing many states and cities to again restrict meetings, conferences, and our daily operations.

COVID has complicated the political process, too. In-person meetings are rare in Washington, DC, and most people are weary of the ZOOM meetings, conference calls, and the lack of the personal interaction that is often necessary to have open discussions about legislative initiatives and policy issues. While there are many legislative issues simmering, most of the politicking is happening behind the scenes, limiting opportunities for us to provide input before legislation is

drafted and policy issues are decided. It's difficult to get legislators to change their minds when commitments have been made.

One of the most precarious issues for law enforcement and, particularly our NNOAC members, is what many call "criminal justice reform." That has been a broad, encompassing topic that includes wish lists from several special interest groups, many of whom do not share our goal of public safety. While some well-meaning people are urging policy changes, many states have passed laws to appease the reform advocates who put public safety objectives behind other political aims, and many in Congress are trying to do the same thing. It won't work – many of those reform groups will never be happy with enforcement of the laws they despise.

The headlines and public rhetoric will have people believe that the criminal justice system is broken and systemically racist. It is not. I will repeat again what I have said often: enforcement of the law is about criminal behavior, period. People get arrested because they violate the law. Decisions to curtail enforcement of laws in efforts to protect certain members of society do not, and have not, made our communities any safer. Criminals are emboldened when they know they are free to ignore laws meant to protect our citizens, as evidenced by the alarming increase in violent crime

throughout our nation.

It is way past the time to start making our law-abiding citizens and their families the priority and focus of reform efforts, instead of crafting policies and laws that make victims of the criminals that prey upon them. Many of the initiatives our politicians are considering and implementing now are not working. When they revive efforts to support, fully fund, and staff our policing; to enforce all of our laws; and to hold criminals accountable, our communities will be safer.

NNOAC members know that drug trafficking, drug abuse and addiction are significant drivers of much of the crime that has gripped our country. Yet we often find drug enforcement in the crosshairs of politics and criminal justice reform advocates who seem oblivious to the deaths of over 90,000 Americans who lost their lives to drug overdoses and poisonings last year alone. That should be unacceptable to every American and to every politician.

Our country is paying a heavy price for lax drug policies that seem bent on trying to convince our citizens that drug use is inevitable and therefore should be acceptable and legal. As a result, drug use and addiction are increasing, especially among young people. But until our borders are secured, source countries are sanctioned for their complicity, and trafficking organizations are heavily penalized for their murderous activities, the flow



President Bob Bushman

Many challenges, cont.

of drugs into the United States will continue and needless numbers of our citizens and their families will continue to suffer the consequences. If our leaders choose to do so, we can get a much better handle on our country's drug problem and save tens of thousands of lives every year.

While it seems that many in our country have accepted the idea that we cannot prevent drug abuse, NNOAC members and our partners know better. I'm not going to suggest we can eliminate it, but with some policy changes and help from our elected officials, we can significantly reduce the tragedies of drug abuse and the deaths and violent crime it causes. One of the surest ways is to interrupt and interdict the drug supply, and then to aggressively prosecute drug traffickers, drug dealers, and their helpers. We have done it before, and if our policy makers and elected officials will work with us, we can bring some safety and stability to our communities. America's narcotic officers will not back away from our duty to protect our country and our citizens.

The NNOAC is planning to host our annual NNOAC DC Delegates Conference at the Hilton Washington Hotel (formerly the Washington Court Hotel) from Sunday, January 30 – Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Due to the uncertainty of

access to the Capitol Complex and Congressional office buildings, we have revised our regular agenda without the Hill visits on Tuesday. For those who can schedule visits – and we strongly encourage you to do that – please consider making those on Wednesday or Thursday after the conference so that we have strong attendance in the room when our invited speakers are with us on Monday and Tuesday.

Conference registration and hotel reservation details can be found on Page 25 of this magazine or on the NNOAC webpage, www.nnoac.com. Please plan to join us. We'll have plenty of issues to discuss, and it will be great for all of our state association leaders and other partners to be together in person once again.

The past year has been incredibly tumultuous and chaotic, especially for law enforcement. Please remember what each and every one of you does is critically important and honorable. You save peoples' lives, and you bring the help, relief, and protection to our communities no one else can provide. The greatest things our country has to offer will not remain great without your efforts.

Blessed be the Peacemakers.

NNOAC Legislative Update
Fall - 2021



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BROOKS BAWDEN MOORE

LLC

Everyone expected the 117th Congress to start with a flurry of activity right out of the gate related to policing, criminal justice, and drug policy. A lot of discussions on policing occurred, but real legislative action has not materialized as of September. Despite extensive negotiations, little has gone anywhere within Congress. The rise in violent crime in many of our communities and an unprecedented spike in drug overdoses during COVID pandemic have sapped some of the energy behind police reform.

The intense energy pushing policing reform measures at the national level has somewhat diminished, as negotiators have failed to find consensus on contentious provisions including qualified immunity, no-knock warrants, and the 1033 program. Additionally, as we have seen a spike in violent crime, fears that the pendulum has swung too far

toward “defund the police” have given many lawmakers a moment of pause in their rhetoric. The House, Senate, and White House are more sensitive to messaging on policing and public safety-related priorities. Despite this, we continue to see bipartisan efforts to tackle “lower hanging fruit” or less contentious items in police reform like chokeholds, data reporting requirements, and training standards.

With policing reform, COVID-related stimulus, and infrastructure legislation sucking up most of the oxygen on the Hill, the annual appropriations process has been slow, leading many to speculate that we will see a continuing resolution on most of the annual bills. The House draft of the FY 2022 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations bill included several policing reform provisions attached to the law enforcement grants including Byrne JAG. Law enforcement associations weighed in with Congress in a

unified way during the CJS consideration process to push back on the onerous grant conditions. As a result, the CJS bill was pulled from the House floor, and details of future consideration are up in the air. It is almost certain that appropriations bills for DOJ and DHS funding will be subject to a continuing resolution into late 2021.

Despite this, funding for key programs such as Byrne JAG, RISS, and HIDTA continues to be an advocacy focus for NNOAC – and we have seen positive indications so far. The House version of the FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill included a slight increase for the Byrne JAG program (minus carveouts), a \$4 million increase for the RISS program, and a slight increase for the HIDTA program. Significantly, Congress continues to recognize the importance of keeping the HIDTA program within ONDCP.

Over the past year, the nation was focused on the death and destruction caused by the COVID-19 virus, but tragically, we also saw a large spike in deaths from overdoses. The NNOAC warned policy makers that now more than ever, we cannot abandon our drug enforcement efforts as it remains a crucial component in our efforts to tackle the drug overdoses. As we mentioned in our previous update, initial numbers for 2020 looked grim, but when the final updated numbers were released, it should have been a wake-up call that more needs to be done. Despite this, some continue to vilify drug enforcement efforts, siding with traffickers and dealers who pollute our streets with poison. Additionally, the continued efforts to legalize more drugs including marijuana and psychedelics are concerning.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has been very outspoken about his intention to move a marijuana legalization measure through Congress. His proposed legislation (together with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)) – the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act – would end the prohibition of marijuana and assist those who have been affected by the “War on Drugs.” The legislation would permit the marijuana industry access to banking services, remove marijuana from the federal Controlled Substances Act, and provide for the expungement of certain marijuana-related offenses from people’s records. The NNOAC continues to push-back against ill-conceived, far-reaching bills that will create incentives for marijuana use and we continue to educate the Hill about the effects

that legalization has had in some states. Measures like this could exacerbate the problems and challenges that many communities are facing with regard to drug use, abuse, and addiction.

The NNOAC has also been actively involved in discussions to extend the authority of the DEA to schedule fentanyl analogues on an emergency basis. The current DEA authority is set to expire at the end of October 2021. We have been working with key stakeholders within Congress to extend this lifesaving authority. As with most drug enforcement policies, this issue has been getting tangled up with the larger criminal justice reform debate. Some argue that this authority is unnecessary or the penalties for violation are too harsh. With over 93,000 individuals losing their lives to overdoses just last year alone, many due to fentanyl or analogues, we are engaging on the Hill to advocate for all the tools necessary to fight this scourge.

Tragically, over the past year with COVID 19 raging and lockdowns occurring, we saw a dramatic spike in overdose deaths. Addressing this will continue to be a priority in Congress. Congress is expected to consider CARA 2.0 legislation in 2022 which would follow from previous legislation that significantly increased resources to address the opioid epidemic by focusing on addiction recovery.

In closing, we must reiterate what we have repeatedly said in our previous articles that the next couple of years will have the potential to shape the law enforcement profession and the criminal justice system in dramatic ways. Drug enforcement continues to be a top target of many reformers, with some blaming the so-called “War on Drugs” as a key source of the injustices facing our society. Significant reforms have already been implemented and incarceration rates have lowered significantly, all in the midst of rising violent crime and an unprecedented rise in overdose deaths. It is crucial for you to become engaged and share your input and experience with local, state, and Federal policy makers as key reform discussions take place. We encourage you to write to your local, state, and Federal representatives to express the importance of the programs that are important for your work and for your safety. Please reach out to us if you would like more information on messaging or key contacts.



The Objectively Reasonable Officer

AKA Callahan's Corner

By John M. "Mike" Callahan, Jr.

Originally published on PoliceOne.com



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4TH CIRCUIT DECISION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A LAWFUL ENTRY

*Case reviews nonconsensual police entry into a
private residence to arrest an occupant*

January 13, 2021



Kendrick Brinkley was the subject of an arrest warrant for the unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. ATF Special Agent Jason Murphy was in charge of a federal-state task force in Charlotte, North Carolina that was responsible for locating and arresting Brinkley. Murphy received information in February 2017 that Brinkley may be located at either of two local addresses.

Murphy obtained a water bill for one of the addresses that had Brinkley's name on it. The other address was an apartment located on Stoney Trace Drive, Mint Hill, North Carolina. Detective Robert Stark, a task force member, checked a North Carolina statewide law enforcement database that showed Brinkley received a traffic citation on January 2, 2017, that displayed the Stoney Trace Drive address. Stark also checked a North Carolina Department of Corrections database that showed Brinkley to be connected to the Stoney Trace Drive address "at some point in January" 2017. The law enforcement database contained several other different addresses for Brinkley in 2016, one added in late December 2016.

Detective Stark located Brinkley's Facebook page and observed some photos that led him to believe that Brinkley was dating Brittany Chisholm. He checked the law enforcement database and found that she was also connected to the Stoney Trace Drive address. Stark and Murphy decided that they would attempt to arrest Brinkley at the Stoney Trace Drive address the next morning. Stark, Murphy and three other officers arrived at the suspected location the next day and Stark knocked at the front door.

The court stated that in its view, "the home takes pride of place in our constitutional jurisprudence."

The officers heard movement inside the residence and after about a minute a female asked who was there and Stark answered, "It's the police." Officers heard additional movement inside for another minute and then Brittany Chisholm opened the door.

continued on next page

4th Circuit Decision, cont.

Stark told her they were looking for Brinkley and requested permission to enter. Chisholm did not respond but instead became very nervous. She looked back over her shoulder and officers observed an unknown female inside the apartment. They also heard a noise coming from a back bedroom. Both women were observed looking backward toward that bedroom.

Stark asked Chisholm again if the officers could enter to look for Brinkley. Chisholm denied entry and asked if the officers had a search warrant. The officers decided to enter without Chisholm's permission based upon the information they had accumulated at the point of entry and arrested Brinkley in the back bedroom.

The officers executed a protective sweep of the premises. During the sweep, they observed digital scales, a plastic bag containing cocaine base and a bullet. They obtained a search warrant for the residence and located three firearms and firearm magazines. Brinkley was later indicted for possession of cocaine base with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm. Brinkley moved to suppress the evidence gleaned from the search warrant. Brinkley argued that (1) police lacked probable cause to believe that he resided in the Stoney Trace Drive residence and (2) the officers did not possess probable cause to believe that he was present inside when they entered.

The Federal District Court Judge denied the motion to suppress and after entering a conditional guilty plea, Brinkley filed an appeal with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

THE DECISION OF THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

The Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the lower federal court. [1] The court first noted that according to the Supreme Court of the United States in *Payton v. New York*, [2] an arrest warrant and a reasonable belief that the subject of the warrant is present in his/her own residence is sufficient legal authority for police to enter the subject's own residence to arrest him/her. The Fourth Circuit further observed that the Supreme Court ruled one year later in *Steagald v. United States*, [3] that absent emergency circumstance or consent, police are required to obtain a search warrant to enter third party private premises to arrest the subject of an arrest warrant who does not reside in that location.

The Supreme Court made clear in the *Steagald* situation, that the third-party owner of a particular residence has spe-

cific Fourth Amendment rights in the sanctity of the premises that can only be overcome with a search warrant. In that situation, absent consent or exigent circumstances, the arrest warrant for the person believed present at the location is not sufficient to protect the rights of the third-party owner of the residence.

PROBABLE CAUSE REQUIRED THAT THE SUBJECT OF AN ARREST WARRANT IS AN ACTUAL RESIDENT OF A PARTICULAR RESIDENCE AND IS PRESENT AT THE TIME OF ENTRY

The Fourth Circuit noted that there is a disagreement among the majority of federal courts of appeal concerning whether police need probable cause to believe that the subject of an arrest warrant is an actual resident of a private residence and is present at the time of entry before entering the premises to arrest that person. [4]

After taking careful note of the split between the federal circuits on this issue, the Fourth Circuit decided that probable cause is necessary to believe that the subject of an arrest warrant resides at a particular location and is present at the time of entry. [5]

The court explained that "requiring that law enforcement officers have probable cause to believe their suspect resides at and is present within a dwelling before making a forced entry is the only conclusion commensurate with the constitutional protections the Supreme Court has accorded to the home." The court stated that in its view, "the home takes pride of place in our constitutional jurisprudence."

APPLICATION OF THE "PROBABLE CAUSE" STANDARD TO THE ISSUE OF RESIDENCY

The Fourth Circuit examined the information officers had concerning whether Brinkley actually resided at the Stony Trace Drive residence.

The court observed that while the law enforcement database relied upon by officers disclosed the two most recent January 2017 entries that linked Brinkley to the Stony Trace Drive address, it also displayed "many others – including the two immediately preceding entries, one added just five days earlier [that] linked Brinkley to other addresses." Further, the police had obtained a utility bill in Brinkley's name for a different address. The court stated that utility bills typically constitute strong evidence of a

person's residence but added that the "officers did not look into this residence" or any of the other addresses found in the database although listed multiple times.

The court observed that the police review of Facebook showed that Brinkley may be dating Brittany Chisholm and that she was connected to the Stoney Trace Drive address. This provided officers with an additional reason to conclude that he "might well have stayed at Chisholm's home, but did not speak to whether he did so as a resident or [an] overnight guest." The court concluded that further investigation was necessary to establish probable cause that Brinkley was a resident of the premises.

The court suggested that police surveillance of the suspected location and possible inquiries with trusted sources like an apartment manager would likely provide officers with the probable cause required to establish that Brinkley was a resident of the premises.

DID THE OFFICERS HAVE PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE BRINKLEY WAS PRESENT AT THE TIME OF ENTRY?

The court determined that the officers did not have probable cause to believe that Brinkley was inside the apartment at the time of entry. The prosecution argued that the information police had that Brinkley may reside in the apartment; the time of entry (8:30 am); Chisholm's delay in opening the door; Chisholm's nervous demeanor; the sounds of movement from the rear of the apartment; and Chisholm and her guest looking backward when taken together established probable cause that Brinkley was present. The court disagreed.

The court rejected the information police had that suggested Brinkley possibly resided at the apartment because it did not rise to the probable cause level. The court explained, "When police know a suspect lives somewhere, generic indicia of presence may suggest that he is there, but when police are uncertain about where he lives, the same signs

suggest only that someone is there – not necessarily the suspect." The court was not persuaded by the other points argued by the prosecution and stated, "When police have limited reason to believe a suspect resides in a home, generic signs of life inside and understandably nervous reactions from residents, without more, do not amount to probable cause that the suspect is present within."

CONCLUSION

This case presents law enforcement officers with an instructional reminder of several key Fourth Amendment constitutional requirements before attempting to arrest a person located in a residence.

These requirements include:

- An arrest warrant is required, absent consent or exigent circumstances, before officers can enter a person's own residence to apprehend him/her.
- A search warrant is necessary, absent consent or emergency circumstances before officers can enter a third-party residence to arrest a subject located inside that residence. The existence of an arrest warrant for the subject inside the residence is not sufficient to overcome the Fourth Amendment rights of the third-party owner.
- When officers seek to enter a subject's own residence to arrest him/her, several Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal (see footnote 4) require officers to possess, in addition to an arrest warrant for the subject, probable cause to believe the subject actually resides in the premises and probable cause that he/she is present inside at the time of entry.
- A smaller number of federal circuits (see footnote 4) take the position that when officers have an arrest warrant for a subject and seek entry to the

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subject's own residence to arrest him/her, they need less than probable cause to believe the subject resides there and is present at the time of entry. Facts amounting to the lesser standard of a "reasonable belief" would suffice.

References

1. United States v. Brinkley, (No. 18-4455) (4th Cir. 2020).
2. See, Payton v. New York, 445 U.S. 573 (1980). The Supreme Court ruled "for Fourth Amendment purposes, an arrest warrant founded on probable cause implicitly carries with it the limited authority to enter a dwelling in which the suspect lives when there is reason to believe the suspect is within." (Id. at 603).
3. 451 U.S. 204 (1981).
4. Some federal circuits including the First, Second, Tenth, and the D.C. Circuit require less than probable cause (i.e., a "reasonable belief") that the subject of an arrest warrant is an actual resident of a residence and is present at the time of entry before police can enter to arrest him. See e.g., U.S. v. Werra, 638 F.3d 326, 337 (1st Cir. 2011); U.S. v. Lauter, 57 F.3d 212, 215 (2nd Cir. 1995); Valdez v. McPheters, 172 F.3d 1220, 1224 (10th Cir. 1999); U.S. v. Thomas, 429 F.3d 282, 286 (D.C. Cir. 2005). In Thomas, the D.C. Circuit explained that the standard was a "reasonable belief" that the suspect resided in the premises and was present at the time of entry. However, the court made clear that this standard was less than probable cause.

Several other federal appellate courts have required, in addition to an arrest warrant, that law enforcement officers possess probable cause to believe the subject of the arrest warrant actually resides in the premises to be searched and probable cause to believe he/she is present at the time of entry. See, U.S. v. Vasquez-Algarin, 821 F.3d 467, 477 (3d Cir. 2016); U.S. v. Barrera, 464 F.3d 496, 500 (5th Cir. 2006); U.S. v. Hardin, 539 F.3d 404, 415 (6th Cir. 2008); U.S. v. Jackson, 576 F.3d 465, 469 (7th Cir. 2009); U.S. v. Gorman, 314 F.3d 1105, 1114 (9th Cir. 2002). It should be noted that the Seventh Circuit has indicated an inclination to rule this way.

5. The Fourth Circuit covers the states of Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The Third Circuit covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and the Virgin Islands. The Fifth Circuit covers Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The Sixth Circuit covers Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. The Seventh Circuit covers Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The Ninth Circuit covers Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam and the Mariana Islands.

The First Circuit covers, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Puerto Rico. The Second Circuit covers New York, Connecticut and Vermont. The Tenth Circuit covers Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming. The Washington D.C. Circuit covers the District of Columbia.

About the author

John Michael Callahan served in law enforcement for 44 years. His career began as a special agent with NCIS. He

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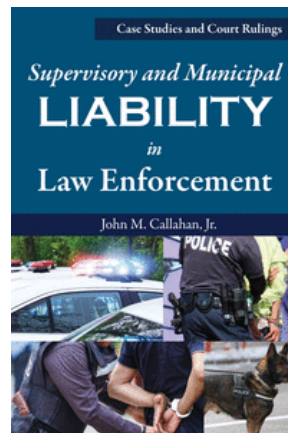
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THE FALLACIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Case of Jacob Blake

By Brian Surber

Violence is up – way up, and police have never been attacked more for simply doing their job. The contemporary false narratives about police and the enforcement of the law have been an absolute disaster to the public safety of the communities we are charged with protecting. More infuriating, these falsities trend virtually unchallenged by the apparatus of the media, intellectual community, and entertainment industry. Working in law enforcement is not just noble and honorable, but societal decline is a certainty without robust laws, policing, and prosecuting.

I wrote a book addressing this crisis titled *Injustice for All – The (Familiar) Fallacies of Criminal Justice Reform*. The goal of the book is to expose these “(Familiar) Fallacies” and dismantle them with facts. The book addresses a number of topics including the debacles of marijuana legalization, the propaganda behind reform movements, the shortcomings of relying on “treatment” for habitual offenders, why libertarians have missed the mark in supporting drug legalization, and the false comparisons to early Twentieth Century Prohibition.

I began to write the book in 2019, and the premise of the entire book is that curtailing enforcement of leads to spikes in crime, especially violent offenses. Who knew the latter part of 2020 would begin an unprecedented assault on our profession resulting in actual movements to defund and “abolish” the police.

Here is an excerpt from the final chapter of the book:

The Case of Jacob Blake

Perhaps the latter part of 2020 is best represented with the case of one Jacob Blake. Blake was shot by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on August 23, 2020.

Initial Version

The early narrative regarding the shooting of Jacob Blake indicated that he was shot in the back as he tried to get into his car, with his three children watching in horror. Blake was reported

to have previously exited his vehicle to break up a fight between two women. The situation was almost invariably described in the media as a black man shot in back by a white police officer. Some claimed that the cell phone video of the interaction between the police and Blake had captured audio with the police making references to a knife. Public officials initially declined to elaborate on whether Blake was armed. Violent demonstrations in Wisconsin followed almost immediately, and the typical pop culture figures and politicians expressed outrage.

The NBA Responds

The NBA canceled all of its games on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Milwaukee Bucks player George Hill said, “We are calling for justice for Jacob Blake and demand the officers be held accountable.” On Twitter, NBA superstar LeBron James said, “And y’all wonder why we say what we say about the Police!! Someone please tell me WTF is this???!! Exactly another black man being targeted.” James went on to say, “This shit is so wrong and so sad!! Feel so sorry for him, his family and OUR PEOPLE!! We want JUSTICE.”

Quite notably, shortly after the NBA canceled its games, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the agency charged with investigating the shooting, issued a public statement regarding the shooting that included the following new information:

During the investigation following the initial incident, Mr. Blake admitted that he had a knife in his possession. DCI agents recovered a knife from the driver’s side floorboard of Mr. Blake’s vehicle. A search of the vehicle located no additional weapons.

Remarkably, the NBA halted its protest the following day, and playoff games resumed in full. The only action by public officials between the protest cancelations and the announcement of full resumption of games was the statement by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

More Facts Come to Light

On the date of the shooting, Jacob Blake had a warrant out for his arrest for felony sexual assault. The New York Post obtained a copy of the complaint that led to Blake’s warrant and some of the shocking quotations from the victim that Blake sexually assaulted her by penetrating her with his finger and, after doing so, smelled his finger





and said, “Smells like you’ve been with other men.” The victim described Blake’s sexual assault as “penetrating her digitally caused her pain and humiliation and was done without her consent,” while also telling the police she was “very humiliated and upset by the sexual assault.” In alleging a consistent pattern of abuse by Blake, the victim also said that during her eight years of association with Blake, he would physically assault her approximately twice a year, “when he drinks heavily.”

Blake, who was prohibited from being at the house of his victim, showed up, prompting a 911 call to police. This is what led police to come into contact with Blake, not the police misunderstanding his good Samaritan efforts at breaking up a fight. The union representing the officer stated that Blake fought with officers trying to arrest him for his felony sexual assault charges, even putting one officer in a headlock. The shooting only took place after attempts to subdue Blake with a stun gun failed. The union representative also said,

Mr. Blake was not unarmed. He was armed with a knife. The officers did not see the knife initially. The officers issued repeated commands for Mr. Blake to drop the knife. He did not comply.

Politicians Respond

To compile all of the comments from politicians and talking heads on the Blake matter would be too arduous a task. Perhaps just the leading candidates for the office of the U.S. presidency will suffice. Presidential candidate Joe Biden said, “I do think there’s a minimum need to be charged, the officers.” Kamala Harris, Biden’s running mate, said she was “proud” of Jacob Blake. Perhaps she had expended all of her outrage relating to men accused of sexually assaulting women during the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings.

Updated Summary

Jacob Blake was accused of violently committing a sexual assault on an innocent victim. A warrant was issued for his arrest; he showed up at the residence of his victim, who called 911; the police responded and tried to arrest Blake for his felony sexual assault warrant; and he fought the officers, putting one in a headlock. Officers attempted to tase Blake to no avail. He was armed with a knife and refused commands regarding the knife, and he was ultimately shot. Blake admitted that he was in

FALLACIES, CONT.

possession of a knife, and in the exact place he was shot, investigators found a knife.

Current Status

At the close of 2020, there appear to be no substantive updates on the Jacob Blake case. It is as if it never was. Perhaps the real facts surrounding the Jacob Blake incident are inconvenient to the narratives pushed by those with agendas. But the damage has already been done. Have we seen any mea culpas from the public figures, media, or sports icons for the horrendously inaccurate statements made about the Kenosha officers? Not a one.

In light of what we know now, does Joe Biden think the officers need to be charged at a “minimum”? Will Biden direct his Department of Justice to indict the officers regardless of the results of the investigation? Is Kamala Harris still “proud” of Blake? Does George Hill still “demand justice for Jacob Blake”? Does LeBron James still think Jacob Blake is “another black man being targeted”?

Police oftentimes have to make quick decisions with incomplete information in rapidly evolving, stressful situations. The establishment has zero tolerance for mistakes on the part of law enforcement. But politicians, public figures, and the media complex clearly made mistaken public assertions regarding the Jacob Blake shooting. How much each individual inaccurate public statement contributed to the violence and destruction is impossible to tabulate—without question, the collective false narratives contained in repeated misstatements led to extreme damage to person and property. Will these people atone or admit a damaging rush to judgment? Perhaps—when hell freezes over.



So - Why be a police officer today? Considering the current climate, why continue to be in law enforcement? There are, and always have been, predators who steal, rape, molest, and/or kill every single victim possible. Only the threat of being caught or lack of opportunity deters their misdeeds – and they thrive in environments without enforcement. The only thing that stands between them and the innocent is Us. It takes so much courage to be in public safety – not just for your personal safety, but threats to try to destroy your life. Lucky for Us, lucky for everyone, we are a very, very courageous group. This is our mission – this is our charge. “Never give up on something that you can’t go a day without thinking about.” — **Sir Winston Churchill**

About the book

Injustice for All went to a Number 1 bestseller and is on Amazon, Kindle, Barnes & Noble, and Apple iBooks as well as multiple other ebook platforms.

About the author

Brian Surber is currently the first assistant district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District for Rogers, Mayes, and Craig Counties. Surber was formerly a special agent with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics assigned to the Tulsa office. Surber graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1993 and from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1996. Surber has prosecuted thousands of narcotics cases and was the 2001-02 Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers State Prosecutor of the Year, the 2005 Distinguished Adjunct Faculty award winner for Northern Oklahoma College, the 2011-12 Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers State Officer of the Year, the 2012-13 recipient of Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers Outstanding Achievement award, and the 2015 Rogers County Co-Prosecutor of the Year. He has also taught over two hundred (250) seminars in 13 states, primarily in the areas of the Fourth Amendment and narcotics laws. Surber also authored The Police Officer’s Guide to the Fourth Amendment and Miranda, The Investigator’s Guide to Search and Seizure as well as The Prosecutor’s Guide to Fourth and Fifth Amendment Motions to Suppress. He is also the author of the Oklahoma Drug Prosecutor’s Desk Reference.

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REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Northeast (New England) Region

- William Butka, Jr.

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The NEOA of CT will hold its 53rd Annual Regional Criminal Investigation School (CT POST-Certified) from November 16th to 19th, 2021, in Newport, Rhode Island. Courses will include Psychological Challenges, Issues, and Hardships Affecting Law Enforcement and Their Families; DEA Response to Emergence of Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals; Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs "From the Inside Out"; Cyber/Internet Drug Trafficking/ Crypto Currency; Graffiti – A Subculture That Police Should Know; and Gangs, Guns and Drugs. The NNOAC presented \$750 for the NEOA school. Conference details and information regarding attendance may be accessed through the neoa.org website.

The New England region is continuing to suffer record-breaking deaths from opiate drugs. All of the various forms of drugs are present. And to make matters worse – and make abuse of drugs increase – soon every state in New England will have legalized recreational marijuana.

Connecticut citizens and local politicians made a gallant showing against marijuana legalization. Unfortunately, however, the public health and safety of the citizens lost the battle. On July 1, 2021, Connecticut legalized marijuana, with Rhode Island soon to follow. Many municipalities are opting to prohibit the sale of marijuana in their communities (a provision in the legalization bill).

Under existing state law, if you stop a vehicle and smell alcohol, that can be used as probable cause. The new Connecticut law prohibits police officers from using either the smell of marijuana or observation of the operator smoking a marijuana cigarette while driving as probable cause to search. However, the law prohibits a person from smoking marijuana while driving!

So, if you are a drug trafficker, make sure you smoke marijuana in your vehicle, and it will not be searched. The entire bill is such a disaster that it would take several pages

to point out all of the problems.

We were able to muster many legislators to oppose the legislation, and it did not pass during the 2021 regular session. However, once the regular session ended, legislative leaders called legislators back to a special session for a vote on marijuana – despite many legislators having prior commitments or having already left on vacation – to vote the bill through.

The political insanity for the legalization of marijuana is over the top. Connecticut legislative majority leaders and the governor pushed the bill through, despite robust opposition citing health risks, public safety issues, and employment problems. Here are some examples of those who opposed legalization of recreational marijuana in Connecticut in 2020 and 2021: CT State Medical Society; CT Police Chiefs Association; CT Association of Boards of Education; CT Chapter/National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; Electric Boat, Sikorsky and Raytheon; Connecticut Children's Medical Center (citing that CT DPH stated that from 2016-2019, hospital admissions for marijuana intoxication for those 18 years old and younger increased by 491%.); CT College of Emergency Physicians; CT Psychological Association; CT Youth Services Association; CT Construction Industries Association; CT Chapter/Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Municipal leaders from around CT; CT Chapter/National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); the American Automotive Association (AAA), AAA Allied Group, and AAA Northeast; Zygmunt F. Dembek, Ph.D. (public health scientist); State Rep. Holly Cheeseman.



Northwest Region - Richard Wiley

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OREGON

In Oregon, the number-one threat continues to be methamphetamine. According to the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA, "Over the last seven years, the drug threat environment has shifted in the HIDTA from primarily methamphetamine

trafficking and abuse to a dual threat that includes high availability and use of opioid-based drugs.” With the passing of Measure 110, which decriminalized user amounts of drugs, the threat will continue to grow in larger numbers. In the November 2020 election, Oregon voters approved Measure 109 (Psilocybin Mushroom Services Program Initiative) and Measure 110 (Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative). There is currently no legislative effort to overturn or amend either Measure 109 or 110.

A report published on July 19th by the Oregon Health Authority stated that the number of opioid overdose visits to Oregon emergency departments and urgent care centers in 2021 are higher than the corresponding months of 2020 and 2019. That report also stated that the mortality data for 2020 and 2021 are not yet complete, so these numbers could be higher.

Marijuana and hemp continue to be an issue with regard to overages and THC levels. Law enforcement, both state and local, continue to see high levels of marijuana exportation to other states. Oregon Senator Ron Wyden continues to push for national marijuana legalization.

WASHINGTON

Washington continues to be inundated with counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl. Overdose deaths were up over 30% in 2020 and are trending higher in 2021. Mass overdose events are common. The Washington legislature changed the drug possession law to provide that a person’s first two cases are deferred, and the suspect is given information on available treatment programs. Prior to the change in the law, these cases were sent to drug courts where defendants were given an option to enter mandated treatment in lieu of prosecution. The new law has resulted in a collapse of the drug courts; and now, because treatment is no longer mandated, treatment centers are closing.

Methamphetamine is abundant and sells for around \$3,500 a pound. Meth is responsible for a large percentage of overdose deaths.

In February 2021, the Washington Supreme Court, in State v. Blake, ruled Washington’s felony drug possession statute unconstitutional because the law did not specify that possession must be “knowingly”. The Court’s ruling effectively left the state with no criminal drug possession law. There is an ongoing, significant effort to legalize all drugs but, so far, we have successfully pushed back.

We were able to work with the legislature to temporarily re-criminalize possession – sort of. In May 2021, the Governor signed a measure that, among other provisions, reclassifies possession of controlled substances (including cocaine, heroin and meth) as a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail. This new law will expire in two years, giving the legislators time to figure out a long-term drug policy strategy. During this time, we will continue to try to educate our leaders and citizens about the truth surrounding controlled substances. WSNIA has hired a lobbyist to work on this specific issue in our legislature moving forward.



The following additional changes to criminal laws were implemented by our legislature on July 25th, 2021. Law enforcement, as we knew it in Washington, has been forever changed. The safety of our communities is going to suffer in a significant way, and law enforcement’s hands have been tied. Here are some changes:

Nearly all juvenile contacts must be made through legal counsel. This will impact all investigations involving juveniles.

Moving forward, officers must have “probable cause” to believe that a person in the fleeing vehicle has committed a specified violent crime, which is a very high standard and nearly impossible to meet while responding to a 911 emergency call for help. An officer responding to the scene of a robbery or shooting may see a fleeing suspect vehicle and may have “reasonable suspicion,” but cannot pursue it because probable cause is not usually developed in the initial phase of an incident, which means more suspects will get away.

The new law requires police to have “probable cause” before using force, as opposed to “reasonable suspicion.” This is completely changing the way police will respond, and there will be some calls we will no longer respond to at all. For example, an officer observes a subject matching the description of a burglary or a shoplifting suspect walking away near the scene of the crime. The officer at that moment in time has “reasonable suspicion,” but under the new law is no longer authorized to use a reasonable amount of force necessary to detain the person if the individual decides to run to escape capture. In another example, police officers were legally authorized to restrain people suffering from a behavioral health episode,

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REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Northwest Region, cont.

in order to send them to a hospital for help. This was part of our community caretaking function. Under the new law, however, police officers may not restrain the person simply for purposes of involuntary treatment. The new law directs law enforcement officers to “leave the area” when no crime has been committed and there is no imminent threat of harm to the person or someone else. That removes us from many of our caretaking functions.

Release and furloughs of incarcerated persons will continue.

The state has established a use of force review board comprised of all civilians (no law enforcement participation). This commission has the authority to de-certify officers they deem to have used excessive force.

Many less-lethal weapons commonly used as an alternative to the use of deadly force are considered “military equipment” under the new law and their use may be prohibited. Beanbag rounds, pepper balls, gas launchers, etc., are no longer legal to use.

Not surprisingly, officers are retiring and leaving law enforcement early at a never-before-seen rate. Officers have to approach their duties with risk management being foremost in their thinking.

IDAHO

(Submitted by Jaime Claiborne, our secretary and member of Bandit Task Force in Boise.)

In Idaho, we are seeing much of what other states are experiencing. We are seeing a heavy increase in overdose deaths due to the fentanyl-laced, fake blue Oxy pills. Prices were up on drugs during the time when border security was at its peak; but since the new administration took office, prices have dropped way down, meaning more quantity available. Large busts of meth and heroin (pounds) have definitely increased. Cocaine cases are also on the rise. And lastly ... It took a while, but fentanyl has reached Idaho. We are seeing it in powder form and liquid, as well.

Luckily for Idaho, spending money to fight drugs has not been an issue. The National Guard is assisting by assigning an Intel Analyst to the Boise Police Narcotics Team.

Politically, Idaho is staying strong on keeping our mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines. They are attacked every year during the legislative session, but

fortunately, no bills were passed amending the sentencing guidelines.

Marijuana is definitely a hot topic in Idaho, and especially in the southwest region of Idaho. It is only a 45-minute drive from Boise to Oregon to purchase legal marijuana.

MONTANA

Methamphetamine continued to be the top drug threat in the state, followed by heroin and prescription pills (including non-pharmaceutical fentanyl). Most of the methamphetamine, heroin, and “M30” pills (counterfeit Oxycodone pills lab-tested to contain fentanyl) can be traced back to Mexico and found to have been distributed into Montana through larger source states such as California, Arizona, and Washington.

A large number of drug loads coming into Montana are being sent through the mail. The postal service and private shipping companies are all commonly used by Drug Trafficking Organizations. Criminals are taking advantage of the profit margins that can be made in Montana due to higher priced street values of drugs. Montana-based suppliers will travel to other states seeking lower prices to obtain pound quantities of methamphetamine and/or quantities of heroin or fentanyl and then transport the drugs back to Montana for distribution. Montana has also seen an increase in the presence of firearms in drug investigations and an increase in drug-related violent crime.

In November 2020, Montana voters passed Initiative 190, which legalized marijuana in the state. Effective January 1, 2021, it became legal for persons over 21 years of age to possess and cultivate small amounts of marijuana. Beginning January 1, 2022, large-scale commercial recreational marijuana production and sale to adults over 21 years of age becomes legal. Montana law enforcement is preparing for the commercial market environment and is anticipating challenges similar to what other states have faced related to legalized recreational marijuana.



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Increased exposures to Covid-19, serious increases in violent crime, drug overdoses, and suicides – It was dangerous to be locked down and to watch the world around you crumble.

During this past year, we have seen the drug and violence threats increase. On June 15, 2021, the San Francisco PD's Police Officer's Association reported that there were 1,603 Fentanyl overdose cases in 2019. By comparison there were 550 Covid-19 deaths and over 700 Fentanyl overdose deaths during the pandemic. But we aren't exactly sure of the Covid-19 deaths now, as various county health offices are adjusting the death reports stats. All of our western states are reporting these same public health issues.

More than 93,000 people in America died from overdose poisonings last year. The University of California reported a 42% jump in overdose deaths in 2020 over 2018 and 2019. The largest increases were in the Black (50.3%) and Latino (49.7%) populations. This national problem is caused in large part by the influx of fentanyl coming into America. This drug is not manufactured here. It must cross our international borders.

San Francisco PD's drug bust operation in Oakland on June 3, 2021, which resulted in five arrests, the seizure of seven kilos (16 lbs.) of fentanyl, \$45,000 in cash, and two unregistered "ghost guns", was only the latest in a recent string of major fentanyl seizures in northern California. San Francisco PD's Chief warned that the seizure contained "enough lethal overdoses to wipe out San Francisco's population four times over." That seizure barely made the news.

But drug addiction experts say that the haul may represent just a tiny fraction of the massive volume of the powerful synthetic drug that is flooding California after being mostly an east coast phenomenon for years.

The evidence is in the rapidly surging death rates. I have read that the number of deaths from fentanyl overdoses jumped by more than 2,100% in California in five years. Overdoses of synthetic opioids (mostly fentanyl) killed nearly 4,000 residents in the state last year, according to the most recent estimate from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In San Francisco, drug users are dying at a rate of nearly two a day, many on the streets of the city's Tenderloin

District. In San Diego, fentanyl is coursing through the homeless population, according to experts and recent media reports. Santa Clara County saw the number of fentanyl deaths more than double last year, KQED reported, with victims on average younger than in previous years.



"The potency is so high that a decimal point difference in the concentration can be lethal," she said.

Fentanyl is an attractive product for drug cartels because it can be cheaply manufactured in foreign clandestine laboratories and substituted for more expensive drugs (like the white-powdered heroin commonly sold on the east coast) or pressed into counterfeit pills (sold as OxyContin or Percocet), according to the 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment from the US Drug Enforcement Administration. The Sinaloa cartel and Jalisco New Generation cartel from Mexico have been taking over production and distribution from prior sources, which included China, the report said.

In southern California, Russian/Armenian and Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations have been found to be involved in commercial marijuana cultivation and illegal sales/distribution. The bulk marijuana is usually packaged in 33-gallon trash bags and transported in rented vans or trucks. Eventually, this illegally grown crop is delivered to dispensaries and then sent to the east coast by various delivery services, including US Mail, FedEx, and UPS.

Increased violence is also attributed to the illegal marijuana trade. Crimes related to illicit marijuana grows and dispensaries – such as robbery, burglary and homicide – have been on the rise. As an example, seven (7) people were found dead at a location used to process and distribute marijuana in Riverside County, CA. Two (2) decapitated corpses were discovered at an illegal marijuana garden in Northern California early this year. Decapitations are a well-known signature of Mexican Drug Cartels.

Additionally, water companies are having water containers illegally accessed by thieves who are tapping into water sources and diverting water to illegal marijuana grow sites throughout our region.

Training and conferences:

The Arizona Narcotic Officers' Association 33rd Annual Training Conference and Vendor Show was held July 19-22, 2021, at the Hilton Phoenix Resort, Phoenix, AZ. Details may be found at www.aznoa.org.

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REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Southwest Region, Cont.

The 2021 Utah Narcotic Officers' Association's Conference was held in Mesquite, Nevada, on August 10-12, 2021, at the Casa Blanca Casino. Go to www.unoa.org for more information.

The Nevada Narcotic Officers Association will hold their 2021 Training Conference on September 27-30, 2021, at the Tropicana Resort in Las Vegas, NV. Go to www.nnoa.biz for additional information.

The Colorado Drug Investigators Association's 19th Annual Training Institute will be held at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort on October 4-6, 2021. Visit www.CDIA.us for more details.

The California Narcotic Officers' Association 57th Annual Training Institute will be held November 19-21, 2021, at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, NV. Visit www.CNOA.org for details.

Please stay involved with your state associations and be healthy.

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 majority of the areas are being plagued with the same drug issues, although some areas are being hit harder with specific drugs problems than other areas.

The Southeast region is much like the rest of the United States when it comes to overdose deaths. I realize everyone has been focused on the COVID pandemic and literally shut

down the United States, as well as the rest of the world. But while the pandemic was going on, we were losing over 90,000 lives in the United States, due to overdose deaths. This number is compared to just over 70,000 in 2019. The fact that we had over 90,000 overdose deaths in one year made it the highest annual number of overdose deaths on record. It is also the largest single-year percentage increase in the past 20 years. It is amazing to me that the media barely covered the fact that we lost over 90,000 of our citizens to overdose deaths. These people appear to silently pass into the night, with no one really paying attention. I wonder if we have become socially accepting of illegal drugs that are flowing across our southern border or if some people would rather look the other way. But there are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives and husbands that have lost loved ones who had become addicted to these illegal drugs.

It has become commonplace for police departments to cut back on narcotic enforcement or cut the units out completely. A large Tennessee police department cut its drug units from 11 different units to 1 unit. Needless to say, drugs, drug-related shootings, and murders are running rampant through that city. Although we constantly hear how drug dealing is a nonviolent crime, many fail to see that drug dealing is the catalyst of most of the crime in their city.

Last year we consistently saw an increase in methamphetamine in rural areas of the Southeast, but this past year we are seeing larger amounts coming in to the bigger cities, along with a steady increase in heroin in larger cities.

Crystal Methamphetamine

The Southeastern region continues to see a steady flow of crystal methamphetamine into this area. The cheaper price has led to a surge of new dealers that have previously sold cocaine and other illicit drugs. The extremely cheaper price is also making it easier for dealers to obtain larger amounts and conduct larger deals than they would ordinarily be able to conduct. The ease of obtaining crystal meth and the lower price have led to this area – and many other areas around the United States – seeing more crystal methamphetamine than ever before.

We have been seeing a slight decrease in cocaine in the past couple of years, but as you can see in the photo and case

highlighted below, that appears to be changing. The fact that many people were out of work or working from home this past year has made shifts in drug trafficking.

An example is a recent case in Nashville, Tennessee, involving the DEA, Metro Nashville Police, and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. A group of individuals in Mexico contacted a confidential source in Nashville and arranged for a shipment of cocaine and crystal methamphetamine to be delivered to the Nashville area. The suspect was driving a GMC Yukon rental vehicle with 5 boxes containing 23 kilograms of cocaine and 27 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine. The fact that the courier was brave enough to drive what is referred to as a “suicide” load from Houston, Texas, to Nashville, shows us that the cartels are aware of the shift in narcotic enforcement. A “suicide” load is one consisting of a number of drugs that aren’t hidden – they are just loaded into a box or suitcase, without any attempt to hide them.



Fentanyl and Heroin

The Southeastern region is continuing to deal with large amounts of heroin, fentanyl, and fentanyl-laced heroin spreading throughout the region. Last year during the pandemic, most areas saw a slowdown of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine due to the closing of the southern border. But with the borders back open and huge numbers of undocumented aliens flowing over the border, we have seen a large amount of drugs being brought into the United States. So, the slowdown that occurred is over and traffickers are making up for lost time. Shipments of heroin and fentanyl (like those shown below) are unfortunately beginning to be the norm.



The fact that larger shipments of heroin and fentanyl are coming into the United States has affected the amount of prescriptions filled for opioids. Most states are seeing a drop in prescriptions filled for opioids for year 2020.



But with a substantial increase of overdose deaths, it’s obvious that fentanyl has taken the place of prescriptions. The fact is that it is easier to get illegal opiates in most states than to get prescription opiates. The problematic issue is that the purchaser does not know what’s in the illicit product, resulting in the increase of overdose deaths. (Editor’s note: There is an article from “The Partnership for Safe Medicines” in this issue addressing the problem with counterfeit prescription opiates.)



Marijuana

As in the past, we continue to see high-grade marijuana being shipped in from source states such as California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. I believe we will see more of the illegal shipments and illegal grow operations in conjunction with the continuing push to decriminalize and federal legalization that I believe is inevitable with the new administration. Unfortunately, many believe that legalization of drugs will cure the problems associated with drug use. The reality is that we will continue to deal with illegal grows and illegal transportation and shipping due to those unwilling to pay any type of taxes.

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Due to the current atmosphere, the “defund the police” movement, and the fact that many law enforcement agencies

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REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

East Central Region, cont.

are feeling the crunch of low or decreased budgets, the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association is waiving the Annual Conference fee. What better way to help our law enforcement community than to waive the conference fee, provide first-class training, and – we hope – afford our brothers and sisters an opportunity to network with other officers and form a stronger bond.

The 2021 Conference will be held August 30-September 3, 2021, at Harrah's Atlantic City Waterfront Conference Center.

During the five-day Annual Conference, we are providing training on these subjects: Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, Gangs and Use of Social Media, Mexican Cartels, Criminal Interdiction, Aviation and Airport Investigations, EPIC capabilities, and Undercover Case Study and the stress related to working undercover. The Annual Awards Banquet looks like a full house as we are seeing tremendous number of registrations coming in. President Nitin Daniels stated “failure to train is failure to succeed in our profession”. It is the responsibility of ALL departments to train their officers and provide them some sound decision-making tools to survive.

President Daniels further stated that “politicians with the anti-police mentality will not shut us down”. We need to be mentally and physically strong, not only to protect ourselves but to protect the citizens of our communities who need us to form a barrier between them and the criminals. Let’s treat everyday people like they are members of our family. Respect and compassion goes a long way for most people. Although we need leaders who will support us in enforcing the laws, we need Judges who will hand out appropriate punishment to



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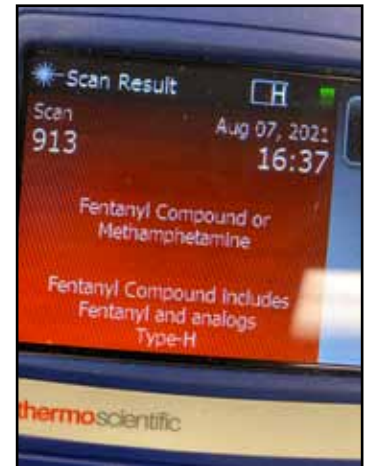
criminals. When we have a revolving door in the justice system, how can we expect the crime rates to go down? Look across the nation. The law-

abiding citizens need to voice their concerns. We should all be able to walk around without the fear of being attacked.

President Daniels is asking brothers and sisters in law enforcement to set a good example. Our behavior affects every one of us.

Kentucky

For years, the annual number of Kentuckians who died from drug overdoses steadily climbed, exacting a disastrous toll on families, communities, social services, and economic growth. But following a decrease in overdose deaths in the past few years, 1,964 Kentuckians died from overdoses in 2020 – that’s a 49% increase over the 1,316 deaths in 2019. Substance misuse – particularly the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, along with illicit fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine – remains one of the most critical public health and safety issues facing Kentucky.



Nationally, more than 93,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period.

The Office of Drug Control Policy believes that the global pandemic caused by Covid-19 was a major contributing factor in the rise in overdose deaths across the United States and in Kentucky. The interruption of routine for those in recovery, the sense of isolation, economic concerns, and anxiety all contributed to the dramatic increase.

Residents in the age group of 35-44 were the largest demographic in overdose deaths, followed closely by the age group of 25-34 and then age group 45-54.

- Autopsies performed by the Kentucky Office of the Medical Examiner and toxicology reports submitted by Kentucky coroners show that approximately 191 resident overdose deaths involved the use of heroin in 2020, an increase from 166 in 2019.



- Fentanyl was involved in 1,393 cases, or approximately 71% of all overdose deaths for the year. Acetyl fentanyl was involved in 502 cases.

- Gabapentin was detected in 390 cases, an increase from

292 cases in 2019.

- Methamphetamine was detected in 801 cases, an increase from 517 in 2019.
- Oxycodone was detected in 198 cases, an increase from 170 cases in 2019.

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association Training Conference will be held September 1-2-3, 2021, at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Lexington.

After 14 years in Louisville, we decided to move the conference to Lexington, due to the anti-police attitudes and civil unrest in downtown Louisville and the political climate in the city. We have found the City of Lexington to be very helpful and welcoming to our organization. The Lexington Police Department has also been very welcoming and supportive of our conference and our association.

The conference will open on September 1, 2021. Following the opening ceremony, we will have legal updates and awareness training on civil liability issues by Attorney Scott Miller. Our usual intelligence-sharing meeting will once again be facilitated by Mike Brackett, JCISO; Matt Gelhausen (LMPD); and Steve Wright (ROCIC).

On, Thursday, September 2, 2021, we will open at 8AM with an 8-hour block of Courtroom Survival and Narcotics Investigation training., conducted 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. This course will teach officers the do's and don'ts of testifying. They will learn the courtroom process and procedures.

In addition, they will learn how and why a personal connection must be made with the judge/jury and how to identify and protect their personal credibility. This 8-hour block of training is KLEC Certified.

The third day of the conference, September 3, will also begin at 8 a.m. with Street Academy: Survival Tactics for Police Officers – 4 hours, conducted by Retired Sergeant Jeff Smith with Street Cop Training.



This course is appropriate for all law enforcement officers and designed to save the lives of police officers everywhere. This course will cover 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."

This is a four-hour block of training which is in the process of KLEC Certification.

West Virginia

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions by many agencies in the state, The West Virginia Narcotic Officers' Association has cancelled their 2021 training Conference.



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REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

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The Midwest has long been known for rolling hills, lakes, and farm fields. One of the most iconic baseball movies, “Field of Dreams”, was released in April, 1989. Kevin Costner starred as a farmer who built a baseball field in the middle of a corn field on his Iowa farm. Fast forward to August of 2021, and Kevin Costner walked on the same soil as he did in 1989, to a stadium packed with eagerly awaiting fans. Behind him, through the rows in the corn field, professional baseball players from the Chicago White Sox and the New York Yankees slowly made their way to take their first glimpse of the historical event.

The classic line “If You Build It They Will Come” resonated through many households all over the nation, and it has never been forgotten. Iowa proudly hosted the event, with just shy of 6 million viewers watching the inaugural MLB Field of Dreams broadcast – the most-watched regular season baseball game on any network since 2005.

You may be thinking, Why does this matter? It matters because it shows that America is getting back to normal. The COVID-19 limitations have been lifting, and people want to be back to THEIR normal. Granted, there are things that are suffering, such as small businesses, airlines, travel destinations, etc. But one thing remains strong – the importation of narcotics to the Midwest Region is still in high demand, and the prices continue to be affordable to even an entry-level dealer.

In Iowa we are beginning to see a shift in the prosecution of marijuana cases. We are a pretty conservative state, with laws that have not been impacted by corporate marijuana industry funding. We do not allow medical marijuana, but we are beginning to see pushback on a few of our trials. In a trial this summer, there was an attempt to pick a jury on a marijuana possession case. The jurors became vocally opposed to the prosecution of marijuana possession – to the

point where the judge declared a mistrial. Although the level of pushback by the potential jurors in this case was extreme, we are finding it more common that jurors will not convict on marijuana possession cases.

We continue to see large amounts of high-grade marijuana being sourced into the Midwest coming from California and Colorado, while we also have medical dispensaries providing supplies in lower, limited quantities in a couple of the states in our Region.

Opiate overdoses are a constant, and Naloxone continues to be dispensed on a regular basis. In addition, we see a steady amount of Naloxone being distributed by pharmacies; it is suspected that this has lowered the number of our responses to overdoses and has reduced the number of overdose-related deaths.

Our Region continues to see large amounts of methamphetamine imported into our states, with very few clandestine laboratories being identified and seized. Methamphetamine has a very strong presence in all our states, while cocaine and crack cocaine are also still in high demand.

Although we are in the Heartland of America, we see a lot of the same crimes being committed as other states in our nation; our drug demand is high; our market is the same; our dealers are driven by power and money; and our users are destined to find just enough money to seek their next high.

I will leave you with this: When you walk into a room there are three things you will notice: Good-looking people, food, and danger! Stay safe out there and keep fighting the fight. We are starting to see fewer and fewer applicants to fill all of the open positions, and law enforcement is starting to feel like a dying breed.

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The majority of the region is encountering similar illicit drug issues. The large cities and suburban areas are continuing to see significant amounts of heroin mixed with fentanyl, which is continuing to contribute to

drug overdose deaths. Crack cocaine and powder cocaine are continuing their resurgence.

Methamphetamine, which is being shipped by Mexican DTO's, is continuing to be at epidemic proportions in many areas. Coming across the porous Mexican border, the methamphetamine is being shipped in powder as well as liquid form, then being converted back to powder in the region. Methamphetamine drug overdose deaths are seeing a significant increase. With the Biden administration's enforcement efforts (or lack of) on the border, this problem is expected to worsen significantly. The price of methamphetamine continues to be extremely cheap.

The rural areas of the South-Central region are seeing tremendous increases in the amounts of methamphetamine and powder cocaine. The region also continues to see large amounts of high-grade marijuana being trafficked in the region. This marijuana typically comes from the states of Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, which have legalized marijuana.

The unsecured Mexican border with the United States, and the ability of Mexican DTO's to traffic illicit drugs at will, is perhaps of greater concern than ever. With their ability to flood the illicit drug market in the United States with heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl, at cheap prices, this continues to be a major challenge.

I had been encouraged by the improvements that we were seeing on the Covid-19 front. All states in the region scheduled

in-person conferences this year. Most have already had their conferences, with reports of good attendance. Texas (August 23-26) and Louisiana (August 16-20) will have had theirs by the time you read this. Additionally, we are making plans for a return to Washington, DC, for our annual NNOAC meeting. However, as I am writing this report, disturbing trends are developing with the Delta variant of Covid, and it appears to be a major concern in many areas of the country. In fact, the City of New Orleans, where the LNOA conference is scheduled, has imposed a mandate that to go to a restaurant, bar, or public meeting, you must produce evidence of vaccinations or a negative Covid test result. This could significantly impact LNOA's conference.

On a positive note, the United States Senate just passed an amendment to the budget bill, which was offered by Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville, which stated that any jurisdiction that cuts police budgets or in any way attempts to "defund the police" would not be eligible for federal funds to make up any cuts. This passed on a 99-0 vote.

I hope that our NNOAC meeting is able to be held in February and look forward to seeing everyone in Washington! Stay safe and healthy.



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COVID-19 Isn't the Only Pandemic We are Facing

“We will hunt you down, we will make you pay”. A direct quote from the President of the United States on the death of 13 servicemen in Afghanistan. Sounds like a good idea, and it should apply to the illicit drug sales that are ravaging this country, and the world for that matter.

Being forced to change our lives because of COVID-19 for the past two years, we have not been able to change lives or slow the flow of illegal drugs entering our country by cartels. Earlier this month, authorities seized 2.8 tons of Methamphetamine and Fentanyl at the U.S. border crossing in California and it is believed to be one of the largest shipments in U.S. history. That is just one shipment, at one location, in one hour of a day. Imagine how much more

has gotten through unnoticed. U.S. health experts blamed the record 93,000 drug overdoses in 2020 mostly on the increase in consumption of synthetic opioids, like Fentanyl; it's easy to make and the potency is 50 – 100 times higher than morphine.

Crime rates are soaring. Shootings and killings are an everyday item on the news, whichever news report you choose to watch. As I travel around from area to area the news media reports are all the same, only the city and street locations change. Interviews with local officials all seem to be scripted looking like everyone is on the same reporting system. “Enough is enough” is the battle cry. “We need to have a dialogue and stop this violence”. “We need to address the root cause”.

None of it is too hard to understand from our point of view. The root cause is MONEY. Take away the money and the root cause is gone. Does anyone really think the Mexican Drug Cartels will stay in business if the profit is gone? When local drug dealers are gone, so will the illegal money be gone. “We will hunt you down, we will make you pay.”

All this fuss over the minimum wage; folks making a

continued on next page



REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Great Lakes Region, cont.

livable wage is great, but it does not apply to those in the illegal drug trade. If we afford to pay a drug dealer \$100 an hour to stop dealing, would that be enough? That's \$4,000 a week on a 40-hour work week. Any drug dealer can make that amount of money in a few simple transactions, pay no taxes, answer to no one, go to bed and get up when they please, and live well. Does anyone really believe we can change that by education and a higher minimum wage?

Another trend is more money being spent on prevention and treatment, and less on the enforcement effort. For those needing treatment, we should be funding resources and help for them. To stem the flow of those needing treatment, we need to spend more on prevention. The best prevention

programs I know of, is harder enforcement. Make the price for dealing drugs so costly that we literally make people too afraid to take the chance of getting caught. "We will hunt you down, we will make you pay".



Until the American public realizes they will never get ahead of the cartels by doing what they're doing, nothing will get better, only worse. COVID-19 is not the only pandemic we're facing, and we're not winning either fight.



*Louisville
Metro
Police
Department*



September 11, 2021

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And now for the Good News!



Bowling Green Police Department



More Good News from Kentucky!



Trooper assisting child with "Cover the Cruiser" during fund raiser for Special Olympics



Cram the Cruiser food drive for the under privileged



Trooper reads to an elementary school class during National Reading Across America Day



Kids explore the KSP Helicopter during Trooper Island Summer Camp for kids



Trooper with child during "Shop with a Trooper" just before Christmas



Troopers deliver "Trooper Teddys" to sick children at Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville



Trooper assisting at an Easter Egg Hunt



Uniform to Uniform program helping Girl Scouts

Louisville "Sluggers"!



Quite possibly the single-most awesome photo in the history of sports.



Editor's Note:

When we were in the development stage, I wanted to use the thin blue line United States Flag with images of law enforcement blended through the flag on the cover. Ultimately, the final cover design revealed itself organically when all the pieces came together as being the perfect representation of a divided nation intent on destroying the very people who are trying to protect it.

The thin blue line stands for the line between chaos and law and order, as well as the memory of law enforcement officers who lost their lives upholding the law or saving the lives of others. The same concept applies with the United States Flag for other responders: Red for firefighters, green for Federal agents and military police, gold for emergency dispatchers, yellow for security guards, gray for Corrections officers, and so on.

Our publication designer Jessica suggested using photographs of Law Enforcement portrayed in a positive way. Pat and I agreed and went to work looking for such photographs. Unfortunately, most of the available photographs of police doing their jobs would come across as negative. Most of the photos in which police were cast in a positive light were copyrighted and, therefore, it was very difficult to get permission to reprint.

Tommy Loving came through for us by providing photographs that we could reprint. We believe that all readers should see the photographs that we did not use for the cover; they are very telling, in that they show the many positive activities police do on a daily basis. That includes providing the thin blue line of anarchy vs. law and order.

Photos were provided by the Kentucky State Police, Bowling Green Police Department, Western Kentucky University Police Department, and the Louisville Metro Police Department. Thank you, Kentucky for coming through for us!



← Louisville Metro Police Departme... 🔍

This afternoon we had the privilege of watching the daughter of our fallen brother, Officer Martez Hughes, graduate from high school. Several of our officers were in attendance to let her know we are all so proud of her! She has a bright future & will be a collegiate athlete this fall! We know your dad is smiling down on you! #LMPD #Hughes #Family #NeverForget



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Louisville Metro
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Drugs, Guns and Coronavirus - Emerging Challenges on Australia's Frontier Islands

Australia's northern maritime border with Papua New Guinea and Indonesia has long been recognised as holding numerous smuggling routes for drugs (coming south to Australian markets) and firearms (going north to the volatile and often lawless provinces on the southern side of Papua New Guinea). Overlaying the challenges of policing this border have been outbreaks of both tuberculosis and COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea, recent geo-political moves by China to establish an industrial fishery processing complex less than 45 miles from Australian territory and a situation where the state of law and order in Papua New Guinea has led the government's own Police Minister to describe the national police force, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, as the most corrupt public agency in the country.

This article will describe this complex cultural and physical environment. It will outline a recent attempt by criminal organisations to target the vulnerabilities of Australia's frontier through the tropical Torres Strait, and examine how the current border closures, supported by civilian law-enforcement and the Australian military, may affect the ways that transnational criminal organisations are trafficking drugs to Australian markets.

Background

The Torres Strait is the area of sea, islands and tropical reefs separating the northern tip of the Australian continental landmass from the island nation of Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea in turn shares a western land border with the Indonesian province of Papua (formerly known as Irian Jaya), the easternmost part of the Republic of Indonesia.

Explored by a Spanish expedition that had sailed west from Peru, the Torres Strait was named after the Spanish navigator Luis Vaez de Torres in 1606. The Torres Strait is a border region in many senses, with international boundaries existing alongside the geographical separation of the Coral Sea, the Arafura Sea, and in a broader sense, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. Of the 133 islands and outcrops that are present in the Torres Strait, only 38 are inhabited.



Image: Sunset over the Torres Strait. Supplied by author.

The remote location of the Torres Strait has made it a region of both passage (for explorers, travellers and seafarers) and exploitation. The natural resources of the Strait, including exotic products such as beche-de-mer (a sea cucumber, eaten as a delicacy in Asian cultures), turtles, sharks and pearl shells, have attracted commercial fishermen and divers as well as smugglers of commodities that have marketable value in the communities of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The remote location of the Torres Strait has made enforcement operations challenging, with vast amounts of ocean to surveil and patrol. Communities on both sides of the Australian and Papua New Guinea borders share cultural, family and commercial bonds, and until recently, could travel easily across the Australia – Papua New Guinea border without documentation. Following Papua New Guinea achieving independence from Australia in 1975, the Torres Strait Treaty was ratified in 1985, allowing for travel for traditional purposes (fishing, hunting, ceremonies and family visits) for some Torres Strait Islander communities (Australian citizens) and Papua New Guinea nationals living in nominated villages in the vicinity of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Since the late 1990's the Australian government has recognised the potential of the Torres Strait as a smuggling route for drugs and firearms. A report from the Australian Institute of Criminology in 1998 detailed a trade in high quality cannabis (referred to in the drug market as 'Niugini Gold') and sporting and military-style weapons. A study into the 'drugs for arms' trade indicated that firearms were being on-sold within Papua New Guinea to crime gangs, the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (the Free Papua Movement in West Papua region of Indonesia) and possibly to the separatist para-military group on the island of Bougainville known as the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

The key Australian players in law enforcement and border security in the Torres Strait are the Australian Federal

Police, the Australian Border Force, the Australian Defence Force and Queensland Police (a state policing agency). Papua New Guinea's single, national police force, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC), with a force of approximately 6000 members, is responsible for policing a nation of between 8 and 9 million. It is important to note that, as at 2020, there was no official estimate of the population of Papua New Guinea, with the last census occurring in 2011.

The RPNGC is a relatively small policing organisation, and its members are faced with an array of challenges to enforce law and order in the developing nation. Australia supports the Papua New Guinea – Australia Policing Partnership, which seeks to build capability and support the role of the RPNGC as a sovereign capability. Despite ongoing support by Australia and the best efforts of the dedicated members of the organisation, the cultural and physical difficulties of law enforcement are increasingly evident. In September 2020, the Papua New Guinea Police Minister Bryan Kramer publicly described the RPNGC as a “police force in complete disarray and riddled with corruption... the very organisation that was tasked with fighting corruption had become the leading agency in acts of corruption.” Regardless of the obstacles and difficulties in resolving the issues of modernising and enhancing the capabilities of the RPNGC, continued engagement by Australian agencies in mentoring and developing the RPNGC remains the only course open to ensure progress in strengthening the ability of the agency and the confidence of the public of Papua New Guinea in the RPNGC to perform its critical role.

Recent developments

A criminal conspiracy in 2018 by transnational criminal organisations (TCOs) to smuggle USD\$67 million worth of cocaine through the Torres Strait was disrupted through the efforts of a number of international law enforcement agencies. Harking back to the embarkation point of the original expedition that explored the Torres Strait in 1606, members of an Australian and Papua New Guinean TCO conspired with South American cartels to smuggle up to 600kg of cocaine into Australia via Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby. The TCO planned to take advantage of the high level of small craft traffic through the Torres Strait and to exploit the close cultural ties of people within the region to facilitate the undetected movement of the cocaine across the border. Peruvian National Police arrested members of the syndicate and seized almost a tonne of cocaine before the shipment could leave Peru and two Australian men and a Papua New Guinea national were charged in relation to the planned drug shipments.

More recently, an attempt in August 2020 by a TCO to smuggle USD\$374 million worth of cocaine into Australia by a light aircraft failed when the plane crashed on take-

off 30 kilometres northwest of Port Moresby. Papua New Guinea immediately demonstrated a preparedness to use national armed forces in drug interdiction roles. A week after 500 kilograms of cocaine was recovered by the RPNGC from the crashed aircraft, on 28 August 2020, a Papua New Guinea Defence Force naval patrol vessel opened fire on a suspicious unflagged small craft that refused to stop after arriving from Australian waters. Papua New Guinea forces wounded a member of the crew, and arrested eight other crew members. The vessel was detained by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force after white powder was located on boarding the un-named vessel.

Complicating factors

Overlaying this already complex strategic picture are the efforts of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative to establish a USD\$150 million commercial fishery complex in the Papua New Guinea Western Province capital of Daru. An article by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in December 2020 has identified that although Daru does not have abundant natural fishery resources, it is as ‘strategically close to Australia as you can get’. The implications of having a large, foreign-sponsored maritime base in such close proximity to Australia's island frontier are many and varied in nature. In addition to the expectation that competition for the natural fishery resources of the Torres Strait would dramatically increase, a correlating increase in international marine traffic could reasonably be expected. The fishery complex will need to be planned, constructed and maintained, as well as operationally manned, which would all require significant increases in population and movements by international visitors into the Western Province. This, in turn, is likely to compel a correlating rise in Australian resourcing and enhancement of existing capabilities to watch and secure this border.

Tuberculosis and COVID-19

The emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic has also had a direct impact on the status of this border region. It is important to note that COVID-19 is not the first serious infectious disease to have an effect on the legal status of the Torres Strait. In 2006, a rising incidence of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis was reported in the Torres Strait, with evidence of the transmission of this strain of disease leading to the South Fly Region of Papua New Guinea being identified as an emerging area of risk for the spread of tuberculosis. Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis is classified by the World Health Organisation as a public health crisis, and worldwide, tuberculosis is one of the top 10 causes of death and, as at 14 October 2020, was listed as the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent.

The existence of a potential reservoir of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis in the Papua New Guinean provinces close to Australia presented a significant health concern for authorities on both sides of the border, especially given the highly transient nature of traditional populations and the ability for residents of both Australia and Papua New Guinea to cross and re-cross borders and interact with communities without strict border and immigration controls.

The concerns regarding tuberculosis, however, were dwarfed by the emergence of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea in early 2021. Despite a relatively low transmission rate throughout 2020, cases of COVID-19 reached a crisis point in Papua New Guinea in March 2021. One public health officer in Papua New Guinea reported a doctor to patient ratio of one doctor for every 14,000 people. The Torres Strait, especially the northernmost islands of Boigu and Saibai, became the focal point of Australian state and Commonwealth efforts to close and harden the maritime border.



Image: Saibai Island waterfront. One of the northernmost Australian islands in the Torres Strait, it is a five minute trip in a small boat to this town from the closest village on the Papua New Guinea mainland. Supplied by author.

Cross-border movements of people between treaty villages and Australian islands dropped from 15,000 per year to approximately one arrival per week, with these arrivals usually being medical casualties requiring assessment and treatment at Australian medical facilities. The presence of Australian Border Force and Australian Defence Force maritime patrol vessels and aircraft has increased, and the security of the maritime border is currently being managed under the auspices of Operation Overarch. This operation, run by the Australian Border Force, integrates the capabilities of Royal Australian Navy vessels, Australian Border Force vessels, aircraft and personnel and Australian Army watercraft and surveillance units to provide an enhanced presence and response capability in the Torres Strait. The increased security and law enforcement presence, supported by measures by Border Force in late 2020 to place

hydrophones (underwater microphones) in parts of the Torres Strait to assist with technical surveillance measures, will make this avenue of approach less viable as an international smuggling route. This will force drug traffickers to rely more heavily on other methods of moving drugs to the Australian market, especially in regard to maritime routes traversing the country's eastern seaboard.



Image: Australian Border Force Marine Unit members deploy hydrophones in the Torres Strait. Source: <https://newsroom.abf.gov.au>

No change to the increasing appetite of illicit drug users in Australia is expected in the near term, and this will mean that, in order to move drugs in the quantities demanded by market forces, traffickers will be ever more reliant on disguising drug shipments in commercial shipping, including cargo and fishing fleet vessels.

With the ongoing focus of border agencies occupied with meeting the combined challenges of geography and disease transmission on the island frontier, it will be important for these same agencies to concurrently recognise (and be able to respond to) attempts to exploit these legitimate commercial streams. This level of vigilance will be required in order to continue to protect the broader Australian community from the persistent and ongoing threat posed by TCOs who will continue their trade in illicit substances – pandemic or no pandemic.

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 South East Asia in law enforcement and intelligence roles and is looking forward to the opportunity to return to the United States as soon as international travel is possible. This is his second article for The Coalition.

REINVIGORATING LAW & ORDER

Reinvigorating Law and Order in America

By Jeffrey B. Stamm

The bleeding of our nation's wounds caused by the Left's war against personal responsibility and accountability can be stopped.

The great levelling force that the Left has relentlessly employed to transform every aspect of our culture in order to achieve "equity" has long relied upon a war against "intolerance" as their principal weapon. More recently, however, our social justice warriors—along with their oh-so enlightened and compassionate allies in Big Media, Big Tech, and Big Business have determined that a tolerant society is, well, just no longer enough.

Given the stubbornness of inequalities across social, racial, gender and economic groups, the Left has ratcheted up both their tactics and their tone against traditional America. Many have argued that the war they now wage is against our conventional meritocracy, even against merit itself. It is, however, more basic—and threatening—than that.

It's a war against standards.

Standards in what constitutes the truth. Standards in acceptable levels of discourse. Standards in the meaning of citizenship. Most of all, it is a war against any standard of acceptable individual behavior.

To put it another way, we have been so bludgeoned with the obligation of endless tolerance and unquestioned compassion that we must no longer demand personal responsibility of our fellow citizens. To require some semblance of self-control of our neighbors today is to invite a torrent of ferocious public attacks and bullying from our sanctimonious betters.

To accept the leftist dogma that all behaviors are relative, even those that are harmful, stupid, or evil, requires not only an astonishing level of intellectual laziness, but also a kind of shameless moral cowardice. It is the modern version of what the late William Gairdner once described as "pandemic public ignorance," where the people, to believe such misguided recklessness, become "dupes of appearances, wishful thinking, inadequate facts, and pseudo arguments."

Nothing more exemplifies this reality than the current explosion of violent crime and drug use in our nation today—most acutely in anti-police, deeply-woke big cities.

It is no mere coincidence that, in the wake of greatly diminished behavioral standards in modern America, we

are witnessing a double helix of corresponding escalations in homicide rates and drug overdoses. Both of these activities—murder and dope—can arguably be described today as mostly "lifestyle crimes," not criminal activities born of passion or "systemic" causes.

Despite the misguided or outright fraudulent assertions that the "stresses"

of the COVID-19 pandemic directly led to skyrocketing homicides (up 25% in 2020) and overdoses (up 26.8% in the one-year period ending August 2020), both have been, instead, a deadly and still-rising combination of lifestyle-influenced acts devoid of self-control, exacerbated by an increasing supply of drugs across the country. The former is encouraged by our modern decadent culture and the latter tolerated, even sanctioned, by many of our current leaders.

Since we can track the direct nexus between illegal drug use and trafficking and how it drives all manner of property and violent crimes across society—as much as two-thirds according to one study—it is not the "war on drugs" we should rail against, but, rather, the Left's war on standards.

As such, what follows are four critical elements of a reinvigorated national platform needed to reduce crime by reducing illegal drugs.

1. Re-Educate

The public must come to understand what the police know—that dope doesn't simply destroy lives and steal souls, it devastates entire communities and peoples.

That, despite the liberal narrative, we do not structurally or systemically engage in "mass incarceration," nor are our prisons filled with drug users. In fact, they're not even filled with drug traffickers.

That we're not going to treat and prevent our way out of the drug problem. And, although it is also true that we're not going to police our way out either, our own history has shown that the law enforcement component targeting drug production and trafficking is the most necessary and effective part of that comprehensive three-legged stool.



Most Americans have no idea how truly dangerous the world has become. How many people and criminal groups wish to prey upon and destroy our society in order to enrich themselves. How narcoterrorists and warlords now control an entire nation right on our southern border. Yet, unlike in the past, too few citizens today understand that society requires those who reinforce the good over the bad on our behalf. They, therefore, must be reminded of that essential truth.

Re-Stigmatize

We are constantly lectured to by our more sophisticated and caring elites that we must not stigmatize those who are addicted to drugs and, thus, need treatment. Well, I don't believe anyone, public or private, actually targets for abuse those who willingly step forward seeking help for their demons.

No, that's a straw-man argument designed to absolve drug users of any responsibility.

Since nearly all addicts begin as recreational drug users, this is precisely the behavior we must stigmatize in order to enlist the forces of society and conscience to prevent and reduce the addicts of tomorrow. Illegal drug use should be shunned and scorned by our culture—at least every bit as much as we have done with tobacco.

We have to stigmatize the 15-yr old boy who thinks he's cool getting high with his friends after school vaping the latest form of purified THC extract, or the college girl who thinks she's sophisticated ordering fentanyl on the dark web and paying for it with some virtual currency for delivery to her dorm room. Most importantly, we absolutely must have the courage to stigmatize those media and celebrity influences that normalize or excuse drug use among our fellow citizens.

Re-Locate

What I'm referring to here is responsibility.

At its core, the drug epidemic in America is a problem of individual self-control. It's not caused by racism, poverty, social dysphoria or any other supposed root cause.

We have to put the onus back on the individual, to take responsibility for his or her own safety and well-being. Certainly, government is part of the solution, especially its critical role in reducing drug availability, but it cannot be the sole answer, the singular and perpetual *deus ex machina*.

Quite simply, individual character and lawful behavior matter. They matter for self and, cumulatively, they matter for society. If not, then as Edwin Delattre has warned, "the country's resources will be exhausted in efforts to save the citizens from themselves, whether or not narcotics are legalized."

Re-Commit

Law enforcement does not receive the resources remotely proportional to the threat. We should substantially increase funding for policing at every level—local, state, federal, international, and most critically, at our southern border. We have to do a better job at cutting off the toxins pouring into our communities at the hands of ruthless transnational criminal cartels.

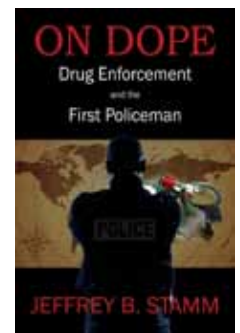
The evidence over the past fifty years is clear: prevention and treatment programs are necessary, but they're only strategically effective when drug availability is reduced. Time and again, we have proved that enforcing our state, federal and international drug laws works: against LSD in 60s, the country's first heroin epidemic in the 70s, powder cocaine in the 80's, crack in the 90s, and meth labs in the 2000's. Clearly, these poisons were never completely eliminated, but we achieved significant reductions following aggressive—and reasonable—measures targeting drug supply.

We know that drug dealing is not a "non-violent activity," as so many of our elites declare. Rather, the evidence abounds that it is inherently violent. To paraphrase former drug czar John Walters, at more than 92,000 drug overdose deaths last year, we intuitively understand that drug trafficking is the most murderous criminal activity in the history of America!

We used to do all of these things—and they worked! Not perfectly, but they worked surprisingly well in a free and democratic society that must continuously strive to balance liberty and order. We need to resuscitate them all! We need to once again find and cultivate truth over deception, self-control over self-absorption, responsibility over excuses, and duty over surrender.

To do otherwise will continue to tolerate, even reward, selfish and destructive behaviors that only serve to invite a Hobbesian nightmare where life becomes poor, nasty brutish and short.

Jeff Stamm is a 34-year law enforcement veteran, having served as a Deputy Sheriff in Sacramento County and a Special Agent in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. He is currently the Director of the Midwest HIDTA based in Kansas City, Missouri and is also the author of *"On Dope: Drug Enforcement and The First Policeman."*





Safer Narcotics Identification

Field-based presumptive narcotics, precursor and cutting agent testing

The use of illicit narcotics and opioids continues to skyrocket. Emerging lethal drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil threaten public safety.

To save lives and protect law enforcement officers, banned substances need to be identified quickly, safely and accurately. The Thermo Scientific™ TruNarc™ Analyzer rapidly identifies drugs and can reduce the backlog of cases at crime labs while decreasing costs. This leads to quicker case resolution and helps drug offenders access treatment faster.

Find out more at thermofisher.com/trunarc

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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."

COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES ARE POISONING AMERICANS

By: *The Partnership for Safe Medicines*

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a dramatic shift in life around the globe. The new normal has driven more consumers online and has shined a harsh spotlight on the proliferation of counterfeit medicines and medical goods available worldwide. Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 2020 shows the pandemic did not stop, but rather intensified, the crushing wave of drug deaths.

The CDC data predicts overdose deaths in the U.S. surging to 93,331 in 2020, the most recorded in any year – nearly a 30% rise in overdose deaths from 2019 – primarily driven by the prevalence of opioids, fentanyl, and fentanyl-related substances. The Drug Enforcement Administration’s 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment found that “illicit fentanyl — produced in foreign clandestine laboratories and trafficked into the United States in powder and pill form — is primarily responsible for fueling the ongoing opioid crisis.”

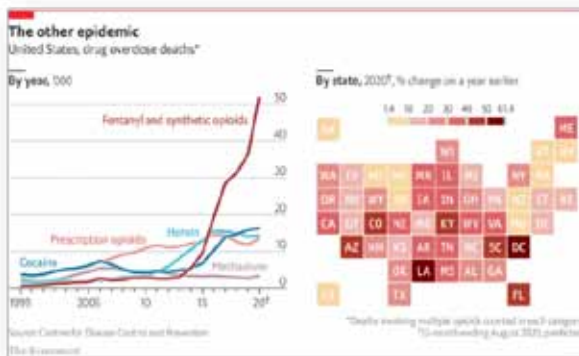
fake pills made with fentanyl, and how bad policies, like foreign prescription drug importation, only contribute to this growing epidemic. Despite the best efforts to stem this tide, deaths from fentanyl have continued to rise, and victims killed by counterfeit pills are trending younger.

Traditional approaches have not been enough. We need fresh, bipartisan solutions to effectively counter this crisis, such as broader public awareness on the prevalence of counterfeit medications and permanent scheduling of fentanyl-related analogues to allow law enforcement to effectively prosecute illicit bad actors harming our communities.

Counterfeiters Exploiting Every Aspect of the COVID-19 Pandemic

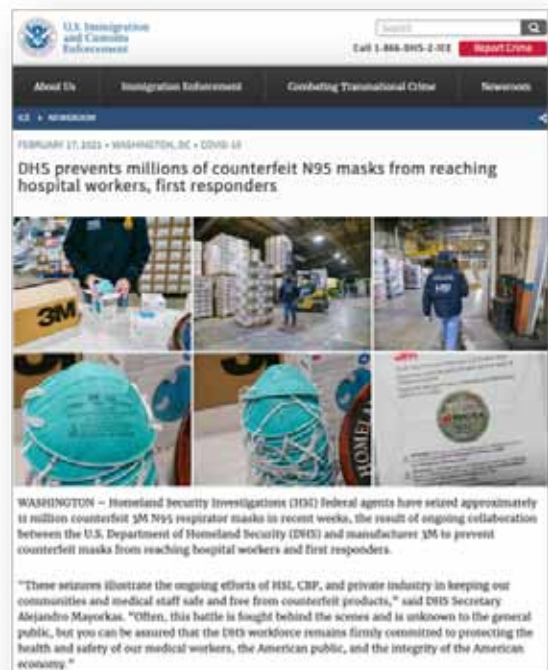
The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a surge in demand for medical supplies, and criminals exploited it by offering ineffective and counterfeit goods, such as counterfeit face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, at-home testing kits, and fraudulent prescription medicines used to treat the virus.

Between April 2020 and April 2021, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) announced that Operation Stolen Promise, its COVID-19 crime initiative, seized over \$48 million in illicit proceeds, opened more than 1,000 criminal investigations, and seized more than 2,000 mislabeled, fraudulent, or prohibited COVID-19 vaccines and test kits, including confiscation of more than 21.2 million counterfeit respirator masks.



Further, in its 2021 Annual Threat Assessment report, the Director of National Intelligence called the threat of foreign illicit drugs, particularly illicitly-manufactured fentanyl smuggled in by organized crime networks, a critical threat to Americans.

The Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM) has been working diligently to educate policymakers and the public on the dangers of counterfeit medicines, the wide array of COVID-19 scams and frauds, the dangerous spread of



Now, we're seeing fake vaccines pop up in countries like Poland and Mexico and Argentina and Brazil, and Europol reported finding fraudulent vaccine offers on the dark web. In fact, PSM was even able to purchase genuine empty Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine vials for sale on eBay.



Fraudulent COVID vaccines and vaccine cards are being increasingly sold on underground markets at a higher rate than previously seen. Even fake post-vaccination surveys are beginning to arise. Earlier this year, HSI and its partners warned consumers about the potential of this type of fraud and, with over 100 million vaccinated Americans, there's a growing market for this type of criminal activity.

Raising awareness and educating our policymakers, communities, and families is critical to stemming to flow of fake and counterfeit medicines and medical supplies. We must all talk to our friends and family to spread awareness before they make a grave mistake.

Criminals Are Still Using Illegal Pill Presses to Churn Out Deadly Pills

Unfortunately, counterfeiters have not just exploited the COVID-19 pandemic – it's the latest opportunity in a long history of counterfeit medicines and medical supplies flooding our communities.

Law enforcement agencies and policymakers across the country are working to address the opioid epidemic, including the danger posed by counterfeits. However, as evidenced by the latest data from the CDC, the death rate continues to climb.

In 2018, the DEA's 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment identified illegal pill press operations pumping out fentanyl pills as a growing market. Drug traffickers imported fentanyl powder directly from China, or from Mexican cartels who acquired it from China, and domestic manufacturing rings and cartels were pressing pills that mimicked opioid painkillers or Xanax and selling them to people who often believed they were legitimate prescription pills.

Two years later, unfortunately, the situation is not any better.

In fact, the DEA's 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment found that Mexican authorities have encountered a rise in illegal fentanyl pill press and tableting operations, while counterfeit fentanyl pills continue to be trafficked across the U.S. and remain significant contributors to the rate of overdose deaths.



In May 2021, PSM released an updated report entitled Illegal Pill Presses: An Overlooked Threat to American Patients, showing that, in the two years since PSM's initial report on illicit pill presses, fentanyl deaths are higher than ever and still rising.

As of October 2020, pressed counterfeit pills made with fentanyl have been found in all 50 U.S. states, with associated deaths in 42 of them.

PSM's updated report outlines the current landscape as it relates to illicit pill presses and counterfeit pills in the U.S., including updates around:

Pill press legislation and federal counterfeiting statutes as well as statutes in states such as Florida, New Jersey, Utah, and Texas

Online efforts to shut down sales of pill presses and molds

How social media has become a significant vehicle in the sale of counterfeit pills, particularly for teenagers and young adults

A study on Florida's pill press legislation, wherein using a pill press in the illegal production of controlled substances is a second- or third-degree felony punishable by a maximum of five years in prison

Given the startling and frightening number of drug deaths in 2020, 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 Congress work to permanently schedule fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances so law enforcement has the tools and resources needed to protect our communities.

Permanently Scheduling Fentanyl-Related Substances is Critical in the Fight Against Counterfeit Medicines

Permanently scheduling fentanyl and fentanyl-related analogues offers a way in which the U.S. can respond to the worsening fentanyl health crisis in our communities, while giving law enforcement the ability to pursue illicit bad actors who are contributing to the opioid epidemic.

In January 2020, Congress unanimously approved the reauthorization of the DEA's February 2018 temporary scheduling of synthetic fentanyl analogues as controlled substances. In May 2020, right before the temporary order's expiration, Congress again extended the deadline. However, that temporary scheduling is set to expire again on October 22, 2021.

the Biden Administration to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances amongst the most-controlled substances, emphasizing the need for the Administration to crack down on illicit trade and curb overdose deaths. Additionally, a collection of former national security officials recently penned a letter to the White House, asking President Biden to declare fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction.

Bipartisan leadership is critical to combating the prevalence of illicit counterfeit drugs and protecting families and communities across the country. Addressing fentanyl-analogue scheduling is not only a law enforcement priority, but also an important criminal justice tool for the victims of fentanyl poisoning.

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has taken a different, more unsettling approach to combating the threat of fentanyl-related substances and counterfeit medicines across the country. Rather than taking measures to bolster the safety and efficacy of the nation's prescription drug supply chain, President Biden issued an Executive Order that opens the door to counterfeit medicines and fake pills made with fentanyl flooding our communities.



Almost everyone across the United States has experienced the impact of the opioid epidemic, including the impact of counterfeit medicines made with fentanyl. In recent years, fentanyl has been combined with a wide variety of fake prescription medicines, such as opioids and Xanax, and has led to numerous overdoses and deaths nationwide.

Rather than continuing to punt the temporary scheduling order's expiration date, it is time for Congress to permanently schedule synthetic fentanyl analogues as controlled substances. Many fentanyl analogues are more lethal than fentanyl. In 2019, the U.S. Sentencing Commission reported that five fentanyl analogues – carfentanyl, furanyl fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl, 4-fluoroisobutyl fentanyl (or para-fluoroisobutyl fentanyl), and cyclopropyl fentanyl – accounted for 76.5% of the illicitly manufactured fentanyl analogues trafficked in the U.S.

A bipartisan group of senators agree. Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) are urging

What else can be done?

Counterfeit medicines, fake prescription drugs and fentanyl pills affect the lives of many Americans. This is a public health and safety issue that needs to be addressed through comprehensive policy, legislative and regulatory efforts to strengthen enforcement, secure the supply chain and avoid the creation of additional loopholes for criminals to exploit—as the pandemic has shown so vividly.

PSM has developed a comprehensive list of policy solutions to help in the battle against counterfeits. For more information please contact our Director of Government Affairs, Stacey Barrack, at SBarrack@VentureGlobal.com or visit us at www.safemedicines.org.

INTERDICTION TOOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: PSM **strongly supports** legislation that would provide resources and tools to enable law enforcement to interdict and combat counterfeit medicines and medical supplies.

COMBATING FENTANYL TRAFFICKING: PSM **strongly supports** legislation that provides the resources, tools and training necessary to assist law enforcement, both in the United States and globally, in interdicting and combating fentanyl.

EDUCATION ON DANGERS OF COUNTERFEIT PHARMACEUTICALS: PSM **strongly supports** legislative, administrative and/or regulatory measures that would educate the public and government agencies regarding the dangers of counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

COMBATING ILLEGAL PILL PRESSES: PSM **strongly supports** legislation and/or regulatory measures to enhance penalties for individuals who commit criminal acts with pill presses.

SCHEDULING OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS: PSM **strongly supports** legislative, administrative and/or regulatory measures to enhance scheduling for dangerous synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl analogues, as Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act.

ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR WHOLESALE TRAFFICKING: PSM **supports** legislative measures to enhance criminal penalties for individuals who knowingly and illegally traffic in wholesale quantities of counterfeit medicines and medical supplies.

COUNTERFEIT PREVENTION EFFORTS: PSM **supports** legislative, administrative or regulatory measures to make it harder for criminals to counterfeit medicines and medical supplies. This includes legislation such as the Drug Quality and Security Act (DQSA), which outlines steps to build an electronic, interoperable system to identify and trace certain prescription drugs.

ENFORCEMENT AGAINST COUNTERFEITERS: PSM **is supportive** of legislative, administrative or regulatory measures that would make it easier to enforce penalties against counterfeiters who traffic in counterfeit medicines and medical supplies.

OPIOID PREVENTION & RECOVERY: It is imperative Congress continues to appropriate adequate funding and resources necessary to address the opioid crisis, including vital prevention efforts, treatment and recovery services.

COMBATING ILLEGAL ONLINE PHARMACIES & ILLEGAL ONLINE SALES OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES: PSM **strongly supports** legislative, administrative and/or regulatory measures to combat illegal online pharmacies and the illegal online sale of counterfeit medicines. PSM strongly urges Congress to require registrars to validate domain name registration information and make registration data accessible (WHOIS) to law enforcement to track down cybercriminals. Additionally, PSM strongly urges Congress to require U.S.-based domain name registrars to immediately lock and suspend any domain name used to facilitate coronavirus and other public health scams (Lock & Suspend).

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY DRUG PREVENTION: PSM **supports** legislative measures to increase funding, resources and tools to assist law enforcement nationwide in community drug prevention outreach efforts. For example, PSM supports increased funding for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Program.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION: PSM **has long-standing concerns** over any efforts that would allow for prescription drug importation from Canada and/or foreign countries. In mid-July, President Biden issued an Executive Order on “Promoting Competition in the American Economy” that directs the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work with states and tribes on plans to import prescription drugs from Canada. At a time of increased counterfeit and adulterated medical devices, products and treatments around the world, it is ill advised to pursue this flawed policy. Importation has been widely denounced by public health groups, law enforcement and business groups for years. The Canadian Government

has stated that they will not participate in such schemes and banned the mass importation of prescription drugs, since it creates shortages for Canada. Without Canadian cooperation, importation schemes will result in counterfeit, substandard and adulterated prescription drugs being imported, creating an illicit black market law enforcement issue.

EXPANSION OF ILLICIT PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET: PSM is **opposed** to any legislative, administrative and/or regulatory measures which will strain the global supply chain and ultimately lead to unintended consequences such as the expansion of the counterfeit / illicit pharmaceutical trade market.

PENALTY REDUCTION FOR COUNTERFEIT TRAFFICKERS: PSM is **strongly opposed** to any legislative measures that decrease penalties for individuals who knowingly traffic in counterfeit medicines and medical supplies. Counterfeiting medicines and medical supplies is not a victimless crime, and those who knowingly traffic in counterfeit, substandard or adulterated goods do not care who they harm. They are only concerned with financial gains.

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

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

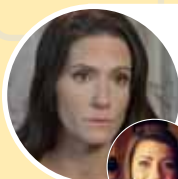
THIS IS WHAT SURVIVORS WISH THEY COULD HAVE SAID:



"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.

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FirstNet: A game changer for the narcotics officer

By Keith Behlmer

Napa County Sheriff's Office, Retired

Officer safety is always the top priority for officers assigned to an undercover police operation. Lack of communications or a communication failure during an operation can jeopardize the mission, and put you at major risk.

During my career of 32 years in law enforcement, with ten years in the California Department of Justice Narcotics Task Force as an officer and supervisor, the ability to communicate has at times proven to be a challenge. With the communication options available to us today, does it not make sense to use the FirstNet network built with and for public safety?

FirstNet was created following the challenges in communication during the response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a single, interoperable network for public safety. FirstNet® is a nationwide broadband communications platform purpose-built for first responders and those who support them. In addition, FirstNet is listening to public safety by continually innovating and developing new devices and software to enhance communications.

Communication with each other in a small, specialized police unit, like a narcotics unit has always been paramount. Typically, we are a mixture of officers from local jurisdictions working in small units and often using multiple radio frequencies. Officers need to have instant communication if the operation becomes life threatening. Often, our call for assistance comes when the situation goes from bad to worse during a take down or arrest.

Imagine the scenario in which an officer is in close contact with the suspect, the suspect assaults the undercover officer, flees the scene and you are trying to aid the officer while trying to get help. Or the scenario where an undercover officer inside a building cannot message the danger. The ability to successfully control a situation and protect lives is based on our ability to communicate with each other.

For any officer that has been in law enforcement for any significant amount of time, you know we all have that room in our department with all those toys we have bought after we were told how great they were and how they will enhance our jobs. How many of those toys worked? Maybe a few, but

most of them are not doing anything more than collecting dust.

FirstNet is a communications network built with and for first responders. And it will enhance our ability to communicate whether in a large planned event, or a natural disaster. FirstNet already has over 17,000 agencies, accounting for 2.5 million connections, on the network. And it is growing.

First responders on FirstNet get priority and preemption on their own network – built on a separate, dedicated core and not part of a commercial wireless network. Plus, they know their communications are highly secure because the network is monitored 24/7/365 by the dedicated FirstNet Security Operations Center. And there's no throttling for FirstNet users anywhere in the U.S.

FirstNet is built on reliability. If I asked ten of you, "What is the first thing to go wrong in a major planned or unplanned event," probably all ten would say communications.

In a narcotics operation, subjects are not always punctual and do exactly what we thought they would do. FirstNet is the first thing I have seen in my career that will enhance our ability to deal with these events, as well as keep us in constant communication, even in the narcotics world, where carrying a radio is not always possible. Working narcotics seems to always take us out of our jurisdictions, and often out of radio range. With a nationwide network, FirstNet push-to-talk, and the ability to communicate from our radios to our cell phones, we now can communicate almost anywhere.

Let's talk about push-to-talk. Back in the stone age we had push-to-talk and used it regularly. It gave us the ability to lose our radios and have instant communication with each other. When push-to-talk went away, most of the "Narcs" in California, including myself, figured we were done. It was a huge blow to how we did business. Of course, we survived, but it was missed.

FirstNet has launched nationwide, encrypted PTT, with better speed and reliability than the push-to-talk that came and went. A true game changer, it now gives us the ability to communicate from Cellular (LTE) to your Radio (LMR). Face it, everybody has a cell phone these days. Drug dealers could not do their business without them. You can now activate your PTT and, depending how you set up your talk group, you can communicate to anyone on the operation. You can do this whether they have a cell phone or radio, and the radios can communicate back to your cell.

You can set up as many talk groups as you need, which is important when you are relaying confidential information that people outside of your unit do not need to know. Even more importantly, it now gives us the interoperability we have never had as a tool.

How many of you have been in a situation where you



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needed to vector the patrol units into a scene or chase after your suspect with your undercover officer or informant in the suspect's vehicle? Trying to manage the cell phone and radio while driving can be quite a feat. Not anymore. Just pull up your FirstNet talk group with all personnel involved and your PTT does the rest.

Let's go one step further. How about using one of the several apps from the FirstNet App Store for situational awareness? You can pull up a map of the area and have near real-time information on your personnel's whereabouts. You can place assets in front of the suspect's location and have people in the area when your suspect lands.

I am sure a lot of you have been in that situation where you are searching for the suspect's car after entering an unfamiliar neighborhood. We always have a plan going into an operation, but as Mike Tyson said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." We always plan for the suspect to do something unexpected. But let's face it, sometimes they get the jump on us. It is not a good feeling when you lose communication with your undercover officer or informant. Now with a situational awareness app, anybody with the app can pull up a map and see the exact location of your undercover officer or informant.

Today, there are over 170 apps in the FirstNet app catalog. All apps in the AppStore must pass rigorous testing before they are available to first responders.

FirstNet brings many other assets to the table. Do you have a rural operation with no cell or radio service? What if you could request a portable system that would give you a bubble of communication where nobody else had any?

This could be from something as small as a suitcase to a Compact Rapid Deployable for FirstNet (CRD) that can attach to the hitch of your vehicle. It can give you up



to a mile of cellular and Wi-Fi coverage so, you now have communications in rural operations. Or simply use the new high power user equipment (HPUE) which will increase your communication coverage. It can go anywhere a four-wheel drive vehicle can go.

First responder agencies on FirstNet have access to more than 100 deployable assets, which include Satellite Cells on Light Trucks (SatCOLTs), Satellite Cells on Wheels (SatCOWs), Flying Cells on Wings and the CRDs. These are stationed around the country to provide emergency communications to first responders. This comes with a 14-hour response time upon request, at no additional cost to FirstNet customers.

If your operation ends up being in an area with large crowds of people, like a sporting event or concert, first responders have priority and preemption on the FirstNet Network. You will have service for your phones and computers even as commercial networks get congested. In our game, communication is the key to a successful operation. What if you were trying to locate a suspect in a large crowd? Trying to transmit a picture to units on scene might be difficult using commercial network. With FirstNet, sending that picture to other FirstNet users is now possible.

Even though I was in a narcotics assignment years ago, FirstNet would have been an incredible tool to help us do our job. I may be retired, but you are still my family. If I did not believe that FirstNet would enhance our ability to do our job, I would not be writing this. Stay safe.

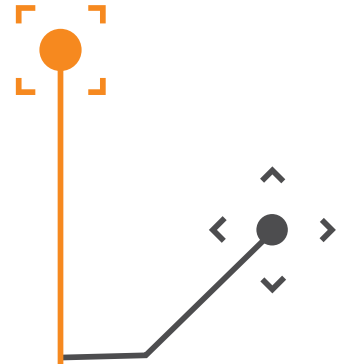
Keith Behlmer retired after 32 years in law enforcement. He served 27 years with the Napa County Sheriff's Office and five years with the Richmond Police Department. During his career, he was assigned to patrol, K9, SWAT and served 3 assignments on the narcotics task force two as an agent, and one as a supervisor, for a total of 10 years. He is currently a range master with the Napa County Sheriff's Office.

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COMMENTARY

ANTICOP MOVEMENT WANTS ROAD ANARCHY TOO

Heather Mac Donald

MANHATTAN
INSTITUTE

The death of Daunte Wright bolsters demands to get police officers out of traffic-law enforcement. Traffic laws didn't kill Daunte Wright, but critics of the police are using his death to call for an end to their enforcement. Likewise with George Floyd and laws against counterfeiting.

On April 11 Brooklyn Center, Minn., police stopped Wright, 20, for an expired vehicle registration. Officers then discovered that Mr. Wright had an open warrant for failing to appear in court on charges of illegal gun possession and fleeing from arrest. After following instructions to get out of his car, Wright fought with the cops and lunged back into the driver's seat when they attempted to arrest him on the outstanding warrant. One of the officers reached for her Taser but, she claims, mistakenly grabbed her pistol instead. She fired one lethal shot.

Floyd allegedly passed a counterfeit \$20 bill, a federal offense, at a Minneapolis convenience store on May 25, 2020. The cashier called police after Floyd refused to return the cigarettes he bought. Floyd intermittently resisted arrest, prompting the responding officers to put him face down on the ground, handcuffed. Officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck and collarbone for nearly eight minutes. Floyd passed out and died. A jury convicted Mr. Chauvin of second-degree murder.

Wright's and Floyd's deaths were caused by a combination of their own actions and those of the arresting officers. But leftist politicians and commentators are blaming the laws the men violated in the first place. "No one should die over a traffic stop," New York City Councilman Brad Lander said. CNN's John Avlon asserted that "passing a counterfeit bill can get you killed in the U.S." Yale legal scholar James Forman Jr. and a law student wrote in the Washington Post that "having expired tags or temporary plates" must be added to the list of actions that can "shatter Black lives"—never mind that Wright's abortive arrest was not for expired tags but for failing to answer to gun charges.

Calls are escalating to take the police out of traffic enforcement and retail theft response. New York State Attorney General Letitia James has proposed that New York City police cease routine traffic stops. Urban League President Marc Morial told CNN that police departments should "discontinue the discredited broken-windows policing of the 1990s," including traffic enforcement. Instead, the thinking goes, unarmed civilian traffic agents and speeding cameras should enforce the rules of the road. Berkeley, Calif., has already banned officers from making stops for many traffic offenses, and jurisdictions like Lansing, Mich., and the District of Columbia are following suit.

This piece originally appeared at the Wall Street Journal

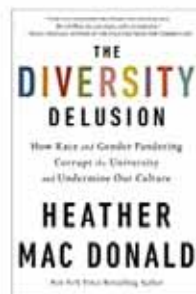
Heather Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith fellow at the Manhattan Institute, contributing editor at City Journal, and the author of the bestselling War on Cops and The Diversity Delusion

Heather Mac Donald

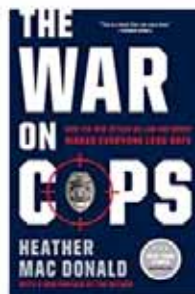


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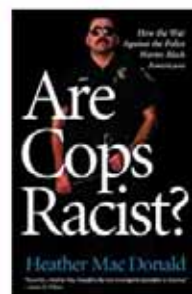
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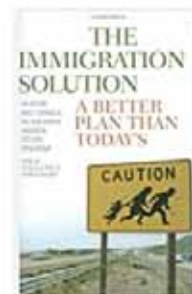
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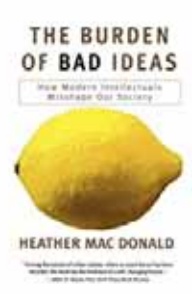
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Antifa violence erupts outside Hatfield Federal Courthouse in Portland - Screenshot courtesy of KOIN on YouTube



Former cop: Violent crime is exploding in America. You can thank “progressives” who care more about protecting criminals.

Posted by: Leonard Sipes|July 29, 2021 | With Permission to Reprint: Law Enforcement Today

What’s the higher moral ground, the safety of the public or progressive thoughts as to justice for offenders?

Destroying Children-The National Institute of Justice

A dangerous or life-threatening experience may become a traumatic event for a child. The child may see the event as an intense threat to his or her safety and will typically experience a high level of fear or helplessness.

Trauma may result from a wide range of events, including accidents and natural disasters. Of great priority to those in the public safety and justice fields, traumatic experiences may be caused by exposure — as a victim or a witness — to community violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse, or terrorist attacks.

Trauma experienced during childhood may result in profound and long-lasting negative effects that extend well into adulthood. The direct effects may be psychological, behavioral, social, and even biological.

These effects are associated with longer-term consequences, including risk for further victimization, delinquency and adult criminality, substance abuse, poor school performance, depression, and chronic disease, [National Institute Of Justice](#).

To the list above, you can add immense fear, devastating impacts on jobs and the economy and people moving out of cities.

The Twenty-Year Reduction in Crime Is Over-Why?

There was a twenty-year plus reduction in crime per the National Crime Victimization and the FBI. The reductions were considerable.

Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey state that we were at record historical lows for criminal activity. From 1993 to 2015, the rate of violent crime declined from 79.8 to 18.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

Using the FBI numbers, the violent crime rate fell 48% between 1993 and 2016. Using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (National Crime Survey), the rate fell 74% during that span, [US Crime Rates](#).

The Progressive Revolt

There were active discussions among progressives acknowledging the reductions and subsequent calls for changes as to how the criminal justice system should change. In their minds, the justice system over-arrested, over-incarcerated, held too many people in jail before trial, and widely discriminated against people of color.

In 2014, the left-of-center Marshall Project said, “The U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. From spiraling costs, to controversial drug laws, to prison violence, to concerns about systemic racial bias, there is a growing bipartisan consensus that America’s criminal justice system is in dire need of reform,” [Web Archive](#).

Justice agencies started calling offenders “clients” or “returning citizens” or “justice-involved persons.” There probably isn’t a parole and probation agency in the country that doesn’t use one or all of these terms. If you search any or all the descriptors mentioned, you will see that agencies from the US Department of Justice to correctional systems to many others embraced the new terminology.

The thought was that the terms “offenders” or “criminals” were simply too harsh and unforgiving and contributed to massive recidivism and reentry into the justice system.

It just wasn’t a change in terminology. Because of use of force issues, all cops were endlessly attacked; they were told to cease proactivity although proactive policing was one of the few modalities that had a research base as to reducing crime, [Proactive Policing](#).

Prisons and the overall use of incarceration were criticized. Keeping people before trial was fundamentally unjust. The justice system was described as racist.

Change had to come.

The Problem-Violent Crime Started To Increase

The problem was that violent crime started to rise in 2015 as reported by the Department of Justice’s National Crime Victimization Survey via the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Remember, we previously had twenty-year plus reductions.

We have a 28 percent increase in all violent crime (including simple assaults) per the National Crime Survey (2015-2018) with increases in serious violence, and the presumption that this applies to 2019 (no change in violent crime in 2019 when including simple assaults per the Bureau of Justice Statistics, [US Crime Rates](#)).

Violent crime and serious violent crime started increasing concurrently with the progressive movement. But no one paid attention because most are more familiar with “reported” national crime data from the FBI even though the FBI records a small percentage of overall crime. Only 41 percent of violent crimes are reported to law enforcement agencies. For property crimes, it’s much less.

Progressives insisted that violent crime was not increasing. They insisted that we never lived in safer times. They said that those suggesting that violent crime was increasing were simply in opposition to progressive change.

In a Reddit criminology forum, when I reported on Department of Justice violent crime increases, one reader responded that I should just admit that I was a racist. Moderators did nothing. Moderators said nothing.

We Started To Worry

Those of us spending decades in the justice system began to worry. We were getting reports throughout the country that violence was starting to get out of hand.

We all understood that the justice system was far from perfect. There were (and still are) racial disparities but per the Department of Justice, arrests matched victim descriptions of offenders. In other words, they were proportional to offending, [Race And Crime](#).

Regardless, all within the system understand that we are here to serve and that all Americans, regardless of who they are, deserve respect and equal treatment.

Giving Offenders A Green Light

But we understood that offenders were smart enough to understand vulnerabilities. Criminals saw that police officers were leaving the job and they were restricting proactive (aggressive) policing. Police budgets were being cut throughout the nation. Arrested plummeted.

Juvenile arrests dropped to their lowest level in 40 years. Juvenile arrests overall fell by 58% between 2010 and 2019. The data shows that overall arrests have declined by nearly 25 percent over the last decade. But per current DOJ officials, “These findings are encouraging and we are hopeful that the declines in juvenile arrests will continue.”

They heard the calls for limited or no pretrial incarceration and far less reliance on incarceration. During the presidential campaign, Joe Biden bragged that he would cut the prison population in half, [Cutting Prisons](#). Offender’s heard his criticisms of cops.

They acknowledged the calls from progressive prosecutors that a wide variety of crimes would no longer be prosecuted.

As far as offenders were concerned, we were giving them a green light to increase criminal activity. It’s similar to the

massive influx at the southern border based upon perceptions that the US would now allow more people to cross.

Criminals prey on the most vulnerable which is why the disabled have much higher rates of crime. Rates of crime against females either matched or exceeded the victimization of males in recent years which was unheard of previously. Crimes against the elderly are much higher than most realize, especially when it comes to fraud. Asians are now the subject of multiple hit-and-run attacks.

For those of us with decades of justice experience, we knew in our hearts that we were sending the wrong messages to dangerous people with devastating consequences.

Violent Crime Continues To Increase

Beyond the 28 percent increase in all violent crime per the National Crime Victimization Survey, we have a tripling of violent crime per Gallup, endless media reports of vastly increasing urban violence in 2020-2021 after the COVID lockdowns and riots, a rise in homicides and aggravated assaults in 2019 and 2020 per the Major Cities Chiefs Association, a considerable and recent rise in homicides, aggravated assaults and robberies after the lockdowns by the University of Missouri, and considerable increases in homicides and violence by COVID and Crime.

Per FBI preliminary statistics for all of 2020, there was a 25 percent increase in homicides, overall violent crime increased by 3.3 percent, and aggravated assaults increased by 10.5 percent, [Violent Crime Increases in 2020](#).

Major American cities saw a 33% increase in homicides last year as a pandemic swept across the country, millions of people joined protests against racial injustice and police brutality, and the economy collapsed under the weight of the pandemic — a crime surge that has continued into the first quarter of this year, [Rising Urban Homicides-CNN](#).

Fear of crime is at its highest level in years. Firearm and security sales are skyrocketing. Per media accounts, people are leaving cities.

Early indications for 2021 suggest that violence continues to grow.

The focus of violent crime increases seems to be concentrated in American cities. It’s minorities being hit the hardest, [US Crime Rates](#).

The Revolution Begins-You Cannot Coddle Violent Criminals

(rearranged quotes from all sources for brevity)

Washington D.C. police chief Robert Contee slammed rising crime in the city Friday, insisting ‘You cannot coddle violent criminals’, and the White House’s new strategy to tackle violent crime.

A shooting Thursday night at the popular D.C. 14th Street

dining area that left two injured and sent diners fleeing for their lives, sparked Contee's visit to the busy corridor to talk to business owners.

'People are really mad as hell right now, and I don't blame them, because I am too. That's the reality,' he said.

I think people are sick and tired of being sick and tired. I think that people want to ensure that there is accountability for what's happening in our communities.'

He pleaded: 'I'm asking community members: join with me.

'My voice is only but one voice and I've been saying this for a long time ... I've been in this police department for over 30 years. This is the same movie from when I was a boy growing up here. When are we going to do something different?' said Contee. 'And what different looks like – what does not happen here – is accountability.'

Contrasting the Biden Administration's strategy to focus on gun dealers instead of individual criminals, Contee said he wants to crack down on those who have led a surge in crime.

'I'm talking about those individuals who brazenly use illegal firearms in our street,' Contee clarified, [Daily Mail](#)

These statements are from the chief of police for one of the nation's most liberal cities. In previous years a D.C. police chief could never make these statements before a national and international audience.

Detroit, Michigan: Former Detroit Police Chief James Craig called out city leaders nationwide for playing a large role in the crime waves rocking Washington, D.C. and elsewhere across the country, one day after a brazen shooting in the 14th Street nightlife district of the nation's capital.

Craig, who retired in June and [announced an exploratory committee](#) for a Republican bid against Michigan Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2022, told "The Story" that Washington, D.C., police chief Robert Contee sounded the right tone in response to the latest shooting there.

"I got to applaud the chief out of D.C. He's saying what so many chiefs are saying around the country. Some are afraid to say it. It's bigger than just him," Craig said, [Fox News](#).

London, UK: Boris Johnson is to put the war on crime at the heart of his post-pandemic domestic agenda as he begins his third year in Downing Street. He sympathized with the "confusion" felt by crime victims followed by "a sense of shock, and violation" and then "fury" and promised that his Government would be on their side. We need now to redouble our efforts, to continue to put more police out on the street, and to back them all the way, [The Express](#).

California: Those who want voters to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom joined crime victim advocates at the state Capitol

last Tuesday to accuse the governor of being too lenient on lawbreakers as the state experiences a new wave of crime.

They castigated him for unilaterally suspending executions of murderers and making it easier for felons to win release from state prisons. "The thing that really alarms me about what the governor did, is that it's a continuation of policies to undermine the criminal justice system, and to put dangerous people back out onto the streets, [CalMatters](#).

Arkansas: "This is all a result of naive and foolish policies that are letting prisoners out of jail early sometimes because of false claims that we have an over incarceration problem in this country or exaggerated fears about the coronavirus," Senator Tom Cotton said, [Business Insider](#).

A Huge Political Liability

The primary message from the second President's crime summit came from Eric Adams, the pro-police probable next mayor of New York City who, I believe, told the President that his agenda (and that of Democrats throughout the country) depends on a strong approach to violence based on research proving effectiveness.

Per Mr. Adam's campaign website, "If we are for SAFETY – we NEED the NYPD, [Eric Adams](#). He was a New York City cop for twenty-two years retiring as a captain.

Mr. Adams and aids are telling the President that exploding violence, [US Crime Rates](#), is creating a huge political liability for him and his party. They are also advising him that his proposals (i.e., violence interrupters, programs for ex-offenders, gun control, and social programs) are not going to reduce violent crime.

They are telling him that because it's true. Go to the Department of Justice's [Crime Solutions.Gov](#) (the supposed gold standard as to what works to reduce crime) and search for programs rated as successful focusing on violence interrupters, programs for ex-offenders, gun control, and social programs. There is little evidence that they work.

Do We Now Have A Consensus On Offender Accountability?

No, but it's growing. A variety of cities still are promoting violence prevention programs with little data to indicate they are effective.

Minneapolis city officials voted Friday to approve the language of a ballot measure that will ask voters in November whether the city's police department should be replaced with public safety department, [CNN](#).

But there is a growing sense of frustration and fear with crime topping the list of American concerns. Fear of crime is at an all-time high.

Businesses are shutting down or limiting hours of operation. People are leaving cities. Gun and security sales

are going through the roof.

But did you ever live or work in Washington, D.C.? It's shocking to see almost every house having bars on residential and business doors and windows yet D.C. is (was?) home to some of the country's most liberal views on crime and criminal offenders.

There will still be an endless debate as to accountability for offenders versus progressive views.

"Republicans plotting to retake the majority in the House and Senate next November may well have found the issue that could make that happen: crime," wrote [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#). "Democrats should beware," wrote Rich Lowry [here](#). It's a theme that is circulating across the political spectrum, from right ([Fox News](#)) to left ([Brookings Institution](#)), [Politico](#).

Cities could die. You could be a victim of a violent crime.

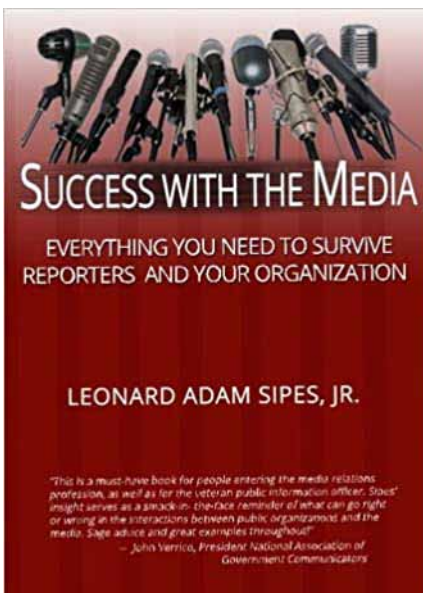
Conclusions

Crime will continue to explode but progressives won't change their views. They are the good guys, the one's willing and able to protect Americas from an unforgiving and unjust policing and justice system. Offenders still need their protection.

It doesn't matter how many children are traumatized for life. It doesn't matter how many elderly are victimized. It doesn't matter if jobs and businesses are lost. It doesn't matter if girls and women are victimized. What matters is protection for offenders from a repressive and unjust justice system.

There will come a time when this backfires on the progressive movement. That time could be sooner than you think.

My book based on thirty-five years of criminal justice public relations," Success With The Media: Everything You Need To Survive Reporters and Your Organization" available at Amazon



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Say her name: DC officer saves nine lives within first year of working on the streets



Posted by: Gregory Hoyt|August 16, 2021 |With Permission to Reprint: Law Enforcement Today

WASHINGTON, DC – A DC Metropolitan Police officer is garnering some well-deserved accolades from colleagues and members of the community, as this officer is being credited with saving nine lives within her first year of working on the streets as an MPDC officer.

Officer Taylor Brandt was first hired by the DC Police back in December of 2019. Shortly after being sworn in as a police officer, Officer Brandt found herself tending to a gunshot wound victim.

It was two weeks after she had started her field training, where she recounted the incident that led to saving her first life:

"We saw a guy laying in the roadway concerned for his wellbeing. He states he had been shot multiple times but we had no calls for a shooting, no sounds of gunshots and nothing pending."

"Police generally arrive on the scene first. We are the first on scene to provide medical care and our first goal is to preserve life which results in preventing blood loss."

Two weeks into being on the field, and Officer Brandt was already employing her Tactical Emergency Casual Care training. Officer Brandt said that most of the victims she saved so early on in her career have been the victims of gunshot wounds:

"Lots and lots of gunshot wounds unfortunately. We have a lot of problems with gun violence in the city currently."

After working on the streets for one year, which Officer Brandt celebrated this August, she's come to know the problematic areas that suffer from violent crime:

"It really runs the gambit of the kind of violence and injuries you see in the sixth district."

With having been credited with saving nine lives during her time on the field, Officer Brandt came to realize that rendering that much life-saving aid is a not-so-common occurrence regarding that frequency.

Commander of MPD Academy training, Ralph Ennis, commented on Officer Brandt's performance since having taken up the badge:

"I would challenge you to find one other police officer in this country that has saved nine people. It just doesn't happen. She truly understands that policing is about helping people."

MPDC first rolled out Tactical Emergency Casual Care (TECC) training back in 2014, which Commander Ennis is pleased to see how well that training has worked out for Officer Brandt and her colleagues:

"When I first came on police department, I have seen so many people die in front of me because we didn't have this level of training and now that we have equipment and training, it's very refreshing to know that we are giving people another chance at life."



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<https://www.letunity.com/>

<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/say-her-name-dc-officer-saves-nine-lives-within-first-year-of-working-on-the-streets/>

5 Things to Know about Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol – Delta-8 THC



Español (<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-en-espanol/5-cosas-que-debe-saber-sobre-el-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol-delta-8-thc>)

Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as delta-8 THC, is a psychoactive substance found in the *Cannabis sativa* plant, of which marijuana and hemp are two varieties. Delta-8 THC is one of over 100 cannabinoids produced naturally by the cannabis plant but is not found in significant amounts in the cannabis plant. As a result, concentrated amounts of delta-8 THC are typically manufactured from hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD).

It is important for consumers to be aware that delta-8 THC products have not been evaluated or approved by the FDA for safe use in any context. They may be marketed in ways that put the public health at risk and should especially be kept out of reach of children and pets.

Here are 5 things you should know about delta-8 THC to keep you and those you care for safe from products that may pose serious health risks:

1. Delta-8 THC products have not been evaluated or approved by the FDA for safe use and may be marketed in ways that put the public health at risk.

The FDA is aware of the growing concerns surrounding delta-8 THC products currently being sold online and in stores. These products have not been evaluated or approved by the FDA for safe use in any context. Some concerns include variability in product formulations and product labeling, other cannabinoid and terpene content, and variable delta-8 THC concentrations. Additionally, some of these products may be labeled simply as “hemp products,” which may mislead consumers who associate “hemp” with “non-psychoactive.” Furthermore, the FDA is concerned by the proliferation of products that contain delta-8 THC and are marketed for therapeutic or medical uses, although they have not been approved by the FDA. Selling unapproved products with unsubstantiated therapeutic claims is not only a violation of federal law, but also can put consumers at risk, as these products have not been proven to be safe or effective. This deceptive marketing of unproven treatments raises significant public health concerns because patients and other consumers may use them instead of approved therapies to treat serious and even fatal diseases.

2. The FDA has received adverse event reports involving delta-8 THC-containing products.

From December 2020 through July 2021, the FDA received adverse event reports from both consumers and law enforcement describing 22 patients who consumed delta-8 THC products; of these, 14 presented to a hospital or emergency room for treatment following the ingestion. Of the 22 patients, 19 experienced adverse events after ingesting delta-8 THC-containing food products (e.g., brownies, gummies). Adverse events included vomiting, hallucinations, trouble standing, and loss of consciousness.

National poison control centers received 661 exposure cases of delta-8 THC products between January 2018 and July 31, 2021, 660 of which occurred between January 1, 2021, and July 31, 2021. Of the 661 exposure cases:

- 41% involved unintentional exposure to delta-8 THC and 77% of these unintentional exposures affected pediatric patients less than 18 years of age.
- 39% involved pediatric patients less than 18 years of age
- 18% required hospitalizations, including children who required intensive care unit (ICU) admission following exposure to these products.

3. Delta-8 THC has psychoactive and intoxicating effects.

Delta-8 THC has psychoactive and intoxicating effects, similar to delta-9 THC (i.e., the component responsible for the “high” people may experience from using cannabis). The FDA is aware of media reports of delta-8 THC products getting consumers “high.” The FDA is also concerned that delta-8 THC products likely expose consumers to much higher levels of the substance than are naturally occurring in hemp cannabis raw extracts. Thus, historical use of cannabis cannot be relied upon in establishing a level of safety for these products in humans.

4. Delta-8 THC products often involve use of potentially harmful chemicals to create the concentrations of delta-8 THC claimed in the marketplace.

The natural amount of delta-8 THC in hemp is very low, and additional chemicals are needed to convert other cannabinoids in hemp, like CBD, into delta-8 THC (i.e., synthetic conversion). Concerns with this process include:

- Some manufacturers may use potentially unsafe household chemicals to make delta-8 THC through this chemical synthesis process. Additional chemicals may be used to change the color of the final product. The final delta-8 THC product may have potentially harmful by-products (contaminants) due to the chemicals used in the process, and there is uncertainty with respect to other potential contaminants that may be present or produced depending on the composition of the starting raw material. If consumed or inhaled, these chemicals, including some used to make (synthesize) delta-8 THC and the by-products created during synthesis, can be harmful.
- Manufacturing of delta-8 THC products may occur in uncontrolled or unsanitary settings, which may lead to the presence of unsafe contaminants or other potentially harmful substances.

5. Delta-8 THC products should be kept out of the reach of children and pets.

Manufacturers are packaging and labeling these products in ways that may appeal to children (gummies, chocolates, cookies, candies, etc.). These products may be purchased online, as well as at a variety of retailers, including convenience stores and gas stations, where there may not be age limits on who can purchase these products. As discussed above, there have been numerous poison control center alerts involving pediatric patients who were exposed to delta-8 THC-containing products. Additionally, animal poison control centers have indicated a sharp overall increase in accidental exposure of pets to these products. Keep these products out of reach of children and pets.

Why is the FDA notifying the public about delta-8 THC?

A combination of factors has led the FDA to provide consumers with this information. These factors include:

- An uptick in adverse event reports to the FDA and the nation's poison control centers.
- Marketing, including online marketing of products, that is appealing to children.
- Concerns regarding contamination due to methods of manufacturing that may in some cases be used to produce marketed delta-8 THC products.

The FDA is actively working with federal and state partners to further address the concerns related to these products and monitoring the market for product complaints, adverse events, and other emerging cannabis-derived products of potential concern. The FDA will warn consumers about public health and safety issues and take action, when necessary, when FDA-regulated products violate the law.

How to report complaints and cases of accidental exposure or adverse events:

If you think you are having a serious side effect that is an immediate danger to your health, call 9-1-1 or go to your local emergency room. Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report complaints and cases of accidental exposure and adverse events to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form <https://www.fda.gov/media/85598/>

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THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: *THE IMPACT*

Volume 8

September 2021

Rocky Mountain High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area



Photo: Collin Riley

Executive Summary

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) program has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado. The purpose is to provide data and information so that policy makers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization.

Section I: Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 138% while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 29%.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 131 people killed in 2020.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana increased from 11% in 2013 to 20% in 2020.

Section II: Marijuana Use

Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013:

- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older increased 26% and is 61% higher than the national average, currently ranked 3rd in the nation.
- Past month adult marijuana use (ages 18 and older) increased 20% and is 62% higher than the national average, currently ranked 3rd in the nation.
- Past month college age marijuana (ages 18-25) use increased 10% and is 53% higher than the national average, currently ranked 3rd in the nation.
- Past month youth marijuana (ages 12-17) use decreased 22% and is 39% higher than the national average, currently ranked 7th in the nation.

Section III: Public Health

- Marijuana only exposures increased 185% from 2013 when recreational marijuana was legalized compared to 2020.
- Treatment for marijuana use for all ages decreased 34% from 2013 to 2020.
- The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has increased from 14% in 2013 to 29% in 2020.

Section IV: Black Market

- RMHIDTA Colorado Drug Task Forces (10) conducted 294 investigations of black-market marijuana in Colorado resulting in:
 - o 168 felony arrests
 - o 5.54 tons of marijuana seized
 - o 86,502 marijuana plants seized
 - o 21 different states the marijuana was destined

Seizures of marijuana reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in Colorado increased 48% from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) when marijuana was commercialized to an average of 257 parcels (2013-2020) during the time recreational marijuana become legalized.

Section V: Societal Impact

- Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately 0.98% of Colorado's FY 2020 budget.
- 66% of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.



*On my honor, I will never
Betray my integrity, my character
Or the public trust.*

*I will always have the courage to hold
myself and others accountable for our actions.*

*I will always maintain the highest ethical
standards and uphold the values of my
community, and the agency I serve.*

