



RESPONSE AUSTRALIA

October 2009 - Issue #12

“TAKE COVER!” Is it that simple?

The ISR Matrix

A Night in June

New VicPol “Divvie van”

Operation Kokoda Assist

And much more...

Supporting our Law Enforcement Community

RESPONSE AUSTRALIA *eMAGAZINE*

October 2009—Issue #12

Doug Nicholson
Editor

Mailing Address:
PO Box 171
Maroochydore 4558, Qld
Australia

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Letter from the Editor

Recently whilst researching new training techniques and tactics regarding Use of Force, I came across this quote, from an unknown source, "Amateurs train until they get it right; Professionals train until they cannot get it wrong." Think about the level of training provided by your organisation, and then answer this question: *Are you working for professionals or amateurs?*

The more I study the actions and comments of those persons in charge of Police organisations in Australia I start to wonder if I'm the only person on the planet who can see the absolutely ludicrous actions being done that everyone involved seems to accept without comment. Am I the only one?

The Victorian Chief Commissioner, Simon Overland, recently told his troops that due to three reports, VicPol frontline troops would not have access to Electronic Control Devices. This included a report calling for the postponement of ECD being issued due to the fact that someone had a heart attack two weeks after being subject to a TASER ECD. Two weeks...

Then there was the QPol Commissioner saying that off-duty SERT members at a bucks party conducting a "nудie run" around a vehicle was the most embarrassing time for QPol in his memory. Perhaps he has a really short memory and can't recall Police being murdered, injured, or the Palm Island Officers who thought they were going to die during a riot?

Do I really need to go on? Am I the only one who sees an issue with these comments?

How about the fact that WAPol are going to remove high-performance V6 vehicles from Traffic Units in an effort to save money, when it was publicly stated that any effort to meet the new budget would not affect frontline Policing? I wonder if the WAPol Executive will still have their Government vehicles while this occurs.

Am I the only one?

With Police Remembrance Day just having passed, I would have thought that at this time

"RA"
October
2009



of year our Police would be treated with some element of dignity and respect. And then I hear about the Senior Sergeant in Townsville, on the day that he is allowed to return to work after being cleared of any wrongdoing during a nine month suspension, is told by Commissioned Officers that he has to go back to the Police Academy to "learn how to be a Police Officer again." And then they wonder why he goes missing.

Am I the only one?

I could go on, outlining the stupid, dangerous, and sometimes downright amazing decisions that are made that reduce the ability of our frontline Police to perform their sworn duty to society, but most people reading simply would not believe me.

Just like I found it hard to believe that Police Managers criticised a Police OST instructor for going to the gym as it was encouraging other Police to exercise, and "that will increase the chance of injuries occurring." Yes, I'm serious.

Which brings me back to the first question I asked, *Are you working for professionals or amateurs?*

Regardless of your answer, it is up to you to support your colleagues, research better training opportunities, better equipment, and watch your own back. It is up to you to be a professional, even if you do think you are working for amateurs.

Look after yourself, and look after your colleagues.

Stay safe

Doug Nicholson
Editor - *Response Australia eMagazine*



VALE

“Farewell”

Constable Stephen Paul BARRY - August 16, 2009.

Constable Stephen Barry, QPol, 52 years of Townsville Police Station, passed away in Townsville, Sunday the 16th of August, 2009. No further information has been released.

Farewell, and thank you for your service.

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A NIGHT IN JUNE

by **Gabriel Jose**
Senior Constable
COOMERA POLICE STATION, QLD

I decided to do this article so that hopefully some officers might get a benefit out of it. I am not embarrassed by the photos of me. I just wanted to show that no matter how bad a situation is that you should never give up.

As bad as an incident can get the effort to get back to work can be worse. You suddenly find out that you do not have total control over your life anymore and you have to fight

hard to get better. Even though you get some understanding from other officers you work with, they do not have the slightest idea what you are going through and of course they can be cynical. But you hope they do not have to go through what you did to understand. What becomes so frustrating is that you see other officers doing regular police duties without a second thought but you find that for you it becomes a terrifying event. I have learnt so much on the issue of mental health over this. There isn't enough space in this article to cover all the details.

Do you ever get a premonition that something bad is about to happen? Many people have, but I haven't. I always thought I would though.

Have you ever had a bad feeling about the occupants of a car that you are thinking of stopping? Many officers have. I have had that experience several times in my career.

In speaking with police officers from Australia and overseas, officers who are more experienced than me and are far more capable than me, they have had these feelings as well.

Interestingly every single officer who had related these feelings had aborted the attempt to make the traffic stop and let the car go. I have fought that fear every time I have had it. I have argued with myself saying 'I can't be weak, I should make the stop to see what it is that feels so wrong'. But I have listened to the warning and relented. I have been angry at myself for this but after discovering the same fears have engulfed these other officers, I don't feel so bad anymore and realise if they have the same fears and listened to them, then I should listen too.

On one night in June 2006, a series of events culminated to put me in a position that almost cost me my life. Funnily enough I had neither premonition nor a bad feeling about the traffic stop.

On Saturday 24th June 2006, I was rostered a 6pm to 2am shift. I was supposed to do two hours RSIP overtime on the Pacific Motorway but upon arriving at work I checked on our white board the list of officers doing the overtime and saw that my name had been crossed off for this day. I didn't think much about that and decided to go to the gym and have dinner in the interval before my regular shift commenced. Later I would find out that my name had been crossed off by mistake and another officer working on another day was to have been crossed off.

On this night we only had three officers working due to a large traffic operation being conducted in Surfers Paradise, where all our staff was working from 10pm. My original plan was to work from 4pm through to about 8 or 9pm, then refuel the patrol car and return to the office as the 10pm shift were going to use all our vehicles. I would also start on paper work that would have arisen from my 4 hours of traffic enforcement.

What occurred was that after start of shift I met with the OIC traffic. The speed camera operator for that night had not turned up (an overtime shift). I discussed whether it was worth going out on the road for just a couple of hours and having to return to surrender my car. I felt that I would be most useful getting our speed camera hours up and thought I would take the camera out for the whole shift instead. The Senior Sergeant said that he would rather have a car out on the Motorway to monitor the movement of the hoons to the Gold Coast before the 10pm shift commenced.

So I rolled out onto the M1 with a marked Highway Patrol car. The OIC and another traffic officer took their motorcycles down to the Southport division to scope out the intended destination of our car enthusiast friends.

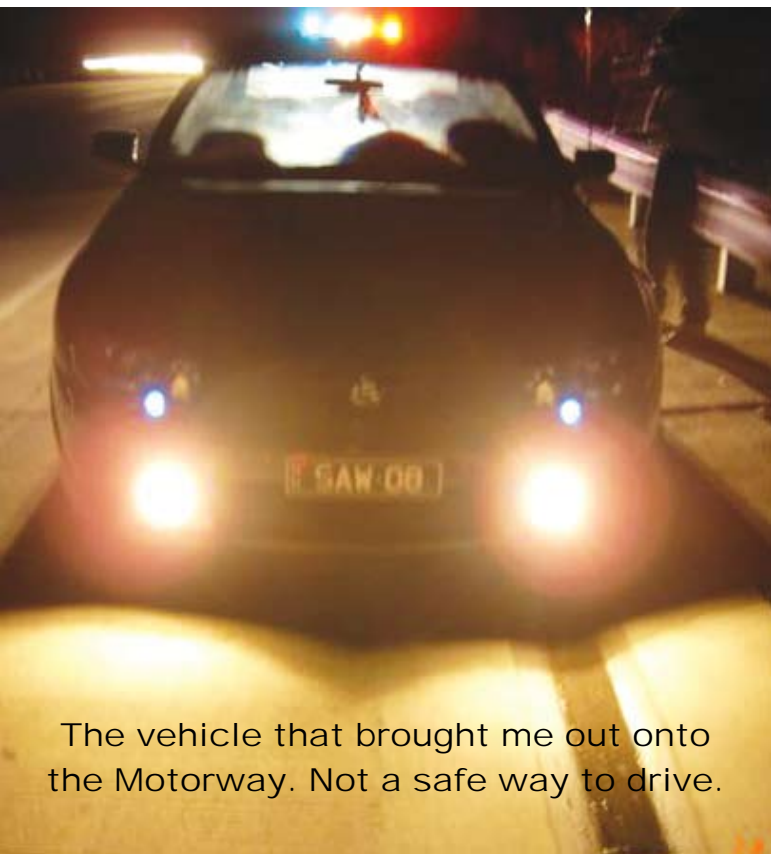
Movement on the M1 that evening was unusually light and law abiding. After a good look around I decided to watch over the motorway from the overpass at Exit 49 at Pimpama. This vantage point would give me a good visual of traffic in both directions and plenty of warning if any racing was being conducted so I would have time to get my car out onto the Motorway and run down the racers.

Quite some time had now passed and nothing was happening. No-one was speeding and I thought I would give it a little more time and head back to the office. I then saw a Holden sedan travel over the overpass. The car had its bottom fog lights on and just its



parking lights which happened to blue. As the car drove slowly past I saw it was a man probably late twenties early thirties with a female front passenger and a couple of very young kids in the back seat.

I was standing on the road in full uniform and thought 'you've got to be joking'. I thought he might put his headlights on but no he went out onto the M1 just like that and so I went to my car and went after him and intercepted him and remonstrated with him, which basically means I got up for driving with just his fog light on and no headlights and of course the blue parking lights. "I bought it like that" was the reply. I turned on his headlights to show what a difference to roadway illumination headlights do in comparison to just fog lights and reminded him that he had two young children in the back seat and not to risk their lives if he wants to drive around looking cool with his fog lights and blue parkers. Besides he should know better as his age. After releasing him I continued travelling on the motorway and took the next exit and came back to my original location.



The vehicle that brought me out onto the Motorway. Not a safe way to drive.

I then thought I did not feel like standing around again and so decided to move 100 metres and sit on the onramp and use my mobile radar to check on any hooners if they speed by. I would also use the in car computer Maverick to check on any vehicles driving past me on the onramp.

It was about 9:40pm and I had been checking quite a few cars but surprisingly did not get any hits. I thought it was about time to head back. I didn't need to fuel as I hardly used any petrol, being static most of the time. So I would be back by 9:50pm, take all my equipment out and hand the car over for the 10pm crew.

Just as I was about to head off, a white Ford sedan drove past me. I ran the registration number and it came up to a Sunshine Coast address. I wondered what it had been doing in the Pimpama countryside and thought I may as well have a look as it was headed the direction I was going. If everything checked out I would be closer to the station anyway.

I waited until the car entered the motorway as I did not want to alert the driver by immediately switching on my headlights as he drove by.

When the car entered the motorway I turned on my headlights and was surprised to see the white Ford instantly dart over to the emergency stopping area on the left and stop and turn off its lights. I raced my police car with take down lights on, the 300 or so metres to the vehicle and stopped behind it.

I exited the police vehicle and walked alongside the Ford to see who was inside. I could see a large male with a white top sitting in the middle of the rear seat. A dark haired female was next to him on the driver's side and a blonde female was in the driver's seat.

The blonde female told me that they were lost and trying to find their way north. I explained that she was actually heading south and needed to take an exit and turn around. During our conversation, I could smell liquor on her breath and advised her that I wished to conduct a roadside breath test and that she needed to accompany me back to the passenger side of the police vehicle for the test where it was safe.

When we got back to my vehicle I grabbed my Alcolmeter and administered the test, which she failed. I explained to her that she was over the limit and would have to accompany me back to Coomera Police Station for a breathalyser test. She then said to me that she wasn't actually the driver. She further explained that someone else in the car was the driver and that she was told to switch seats. After not wanting to tell me who the driver was I showed her my dash mounted video camera that would have recorded the event and that she would also be charged if she did not disclose the driver.

She then stated that the male in the back seat was the driver. The male person in question was Kelvin Luke Cardwell a career criminal who had been in fights with other police officers. In just a few months he had attacked two detectives at Southport and had been in a stolen vehicle in a pursuit with two of my fellow Coomera traffic officers that ended at Logan. After trying to run away he turned to fight the two officers who used batons to clobber him into submission, but not before he threw his mobile phone at full force straight into the face of one officer causing injuries. He was wanted for numerous criminal matters but had escaped detection by giving a false name and he was assisted by the new computer fingerprint LIVESCAN not working properly. He was released on his own un-



dertaking and promptly disappeared until tonight. Unfortunately I was unaware of his true identity at this time.

After being told by the blonde female that he was the driver she gave me a name, which wasn't his real name, but was different from the false name he has about to supply. So I went to the white Ford and spoke with Cardwell and after advising him of what I knew, he admitted being the driver and stated he did not have a drivers licence, and never held one and had no ID on him. I recorded his details as he gave them and went back to my car. Rather than get bogged down in using the radio to get information it was quicker for me to use my mobile phone to call Coomera traffic office where I knew there would be staff arriving at work preparing for duty. An officer spoke with me and checked Polaris and could find no details for the name he gave me anywhere in Australia.

I grabbed my camera and went back to the car and took a photo of the male person, who was at that time on a mobile phone. I later learned from a senior officer that he was talking with a criminal friend whose residence he had just left. This friend was an extremely dangerous criminal who was being asked to come assist him in dealing with me.



Luke Kelvin CARDWELL just prior to the incident.

Now the clock was running. This is one reason I don't like using the radio for checks because our radio staff are so overworked that simple enquiries take too long and puts us at risk, and the longer I take to work out what's going on, the more time the offender has to formulate a plan for escape or attack. My normal MO if

working alone, is to find out as quickly as possible that I am being lied to then I handcuff and remove from the scene immediately if there is more than one male accomplice. This system has worked for me for 23 years on the road. In the past I had been able to intercept and arrest a male and disappear when he had up to ten mates with him. While they are still talking amongst themselves, I'm already on my way to the watch-house before they have had a chance to figure out they could easily beat up on me and escape.

After I had taken the photograph I put the camera in my car and returned to make the arrest. He was still on his mobile phone. I informed Cardwell that I believed he had given me a false name. He had already admitted to being unlicensed.

I advised him he was being placed under arrest and would be taken to Coomera Police station where checks would be done as to his true identity. Now I have had this happen literally many hundreds of times over the years. What I expected to follow was that I would get back to the station and find out his real name and that he was most likely disqualified, I would issue an NTA and release him. I advised his female passengers of this.

Cardwell was sitting in the middle of the back seat. Next to him, between him and me, was some computer equipment. For some reason, I cannot explain, I took out my capsicum spray and was holding it in my left hand. My handcuffs were in my right hand. Cardwell leant over and presented both his hands out in front of him for handcuffing. I applied one cuff to his right wrist, and had to leave the left hand free. He was such a large guy that I could not get him past the computer equipment and so I let him use his left hand to push himself over the equipment and out of the car. He acted very meek and was polite and would answer yes sir and no sir.

As he was just getting out, a voice in my head started saying "Spray him, spray him." I thought to myself, 'I can't spray him I don't have any legal cause. Besides how am I going to explain that to a magistrate?' I have a hard enough time with our current magistrates now when I am doing everything right. They are not going to wear a sixth sense reason for spraying. Since the QPS started using OC spray I have never used it on anyone, but here I am holding a canister and telling myself to spray.

Cardwell got out of the car stood up to his full height and started to turn around, showing me his back. I had hold of his right wrist. I saw his left hand come around to the back for cuffing when suddenly he spun around drawing his right arm up to his chest. As I still had hold of the handcuff it drew me closer to him. I saw that he had clenched his left fist. The next thing I remember was being on my back on the ground still holding the handcuff and being punched



repeatedly to the right side of my face. He had only one hand free and just used that to continually pound me. I can't recall how many times but it seemed like it was twenty or thirty times. From the punching I received a fractured right eye socket that to this day still has an indentation in it and that I can still feel the gap in my eye socket. I also received a fracture in my facial bone that went from the bottom of my right eye to the corner of my mouth. I understand that Cardwell may have injured his left hand or wrist in this attack and was unable to keep punching me. Holding onto the handcuff during all this caused a fracture in one of my fingers. I still have a bump showing on the finger. Cardwell then grabbed me around the head with his left hand and brought my head up to him. For some reason the left hand side of my body wasn't working and even though I was still holding onto the handcuff with my right hand I couldn't get my left to work and wasn't able to fight back. Cardwell then started biting into my head, all the time growling like an animal. He began using words that to me told me that he was no ordinary traffic offender and that I had come across a hardened criminal. He kept biting into my head and then let go. I fell back and somewhere in there was able to look back.



I managed to handcuff Cardwell before backup arrived. Unfortunately that is my blood on his back.

I saw my OC spray canister was nearby. I saw that the dark haired female passenger was now outside their car and was looking at me. She saw me looking at the OC spray and then kicked it away from me. The canister was later found on the other side of the concrete safety barrier. She had apparently picked it up and thrown it over.

Cardwell then latched onto my right tricep with his

teeth and began biting deep. My leather jacket shielded me from most of the damage. After a second or two he released that and then chomped onto my right forearm which was exposed. This was the most damaging bite. He had a mouthful of my arm in his mouth and was biting down so hard that I had resigned myself to losing a piece of my arm. I could see his teeth as he bit down and he was still growling. It's funny how you have time to think of things when involved in a crisis action. I recall actually thinking to myself 'I'm going to see a piece of my arm come off, I am not letting go of the handcuffs' Then he stopped biting. I guess he saw I wasn't going to let go.

He then stood up in a crouching manner, as he was still tethered to me, and grabbed hold of my firearm by the handgrip. He then started to yank at the gun trying to get the gun out the holster. He used such force that every time he pulled at it my body lifted off the ground. I think he had 5 or 6 goes at it. During this time, I thought to myself that over the years I have always been able to get out of sticky situations. Something has always happened or intervened to save me, but 'I am not going to get out of this.' If he had taken my firearm there was no doubt that I was going to be shot. I cursed myself for not putting on my body armour. Since I was only going to be on the road for a couple of hours that night I couldn't be bothered putting it on.

Then I looked down towards my legs and saw that Cardwell had given me a space between me and between his legs so I kicked up with my right leg and I must have winded him as he fell backwards away from me and I lost my grip on the handcuff. I was able to get up on my knees and with my left hand grab my long baton that was in its ring. I held the baton around the rubber stopper drew it out and smashed the handle into the right side of Cardwell's face. He fell further back. I then threw the baton back a little and grabbed it further down so I would have a longer striking area and would be able to deliver a more devastating blow. However as I drew back to strike, the dark haired female grabbed hold of the baton, one hand either side of my hand and started tugging at it. I told her to let go but she replied "No you'll hit him." I tried to hang on but I was exhausted and did not have the strength to keep hold of it. When she got it Cardwell started telling her to hit me with it. As distressing as it is to have to write this I will have to admit I actually said to her "please don't", every time he told her to hit me. I don't know why she didn't do it, but I am glad she didn't. I was starting to imagine what it was going to feel like to have my baton cave my head in.

Cardwell was still composing himself and while his female friend was standing there with my baton trying to make a decision, I went from my kneeling position to be on all fours. I was amazed to see right next to me on the ground was my hand held radio,



plus just about everything that I had on me. While still on all fours I grabbed the handheld radio and called out "971 Urgent Pacific Motorway Pimpama."

I actually thought I can't believe he is letting me do this. I thought as I reached for the radio he would have hit me or done something to stop me. But I got the call out. All I could hope for is that there was a break in the almost non-stop radio chatter that occurs every weekend on the Gold Coast.

Fortunately for me there was.

Due to the poor radio system on the Gold Coast, VKR at Broadbeach did not pick up the transmission, but a Tactical Crime Squad patrol car that just happened to be at Pacific Pines some 12 kilometres away did and without waiting for permission started a Code 2 run. The TCS crew called VKR that they were responding to an urgent call on the M1, but VKR stated that they had not heard anything. At the same time at Coomera Police Station about 6 kilometres away the radio call had been heard in the traffic office and also in the general duties office at the other end of the station. The traffic crews that were just getting ready for duty began frantically running around almost tearing off the gun safe door to access weapons and vehicle car keys.

One of the officers on his way to the station to start work had seen me at the traffic stop at the initial part of the stop and so knew where I was. At the other end of the station two detectives had a drug arrest inside with them and upon hearing the call promptly threw him out of the station telling him they would finish it later and jumped into their car and took off as did the general duties crews that were preparing to start their 10pm shift.

Meanwhile after I had made the call I started to get to my feet. As I did so Cardwell grabbed me by my leather jacket with both hands and he pulled it over my head and spun me around. I was now facing his car. With my jacket over my head my arms were up near my face and so when Cardwell started a flurry of left and rights into my head, it did no damage. I quickly tried to get the jacket off me and threw it to the ground. I saw Cardwell standing with his back to me facing the dark haired female who was still standing with my baton. He took my baton and in one motion like a baseball hit swung around so fast I didn't see the baton hit me straight into the top of my jaw. I felt my teeth fly out of my mouth. This hit separated the top of the right side of the jaw from the rest of the skull and it was hanging down inside my mouth. My head was spinning and everything was blurry but I surprised myself that I didn't go down. I was also surprised that I wasn't getting another hit.

Through my blurred vision I could see that Cardwell had moved and instinctively, without any conscious thought on my part, I drew my handgun and fired

one shot at the white mass in front of me. Cardwell fell immediately face down to the ground. When he fell I then saw the dark haired female was directly behind him. She yelled "you shot me"! I thought I must have missed Cardwell and hit her instead. I staggered over to Cardwell and straddled him and still holding my firearm in my right hand tried to get his left arm to his back to finish the handcuffing. Cardwell began to squirm and I feared that he was trying to trip me up and I did not have the strength to fight anymore, so I put my gun right at the small of his back, right on his spine and said, spitting my blood all over his back, "If you move I will kill you". With those words Cardwell stopped and allowed me to take his left arm back and I completed the handcuffing. From there I staggered back to the open passenger door of my car and fell onto the passenger seat spitting blood all over the microphone as I called out for assistance and said something about shots fired and people down. By that stage several police vehicles were already well on their way and fortunately for me were going to reach me before Cardwell's mates got there.

The second radio call was heard by VKR and everyone else and prompted even more police vehicles to make their way to the scene.

After the call I got back to my feet and staggered back over to check on Cardwell and his companion. The dark haired female was profusely bleeding from both legs. Blood was streaming down her thighs. I thought I might have hit the femoral artery. If so I knew she wouldn't last long. I told her to move off the road and sit down as she had moved herself to the driver's door of their car. I thought if I could get her to lie on the ground it might slow the blood loss. I could not help her as I was barely able to stand and was not in any position to render any first aid. I could hear the police radio and heard officers trying to find the location. I heard one officer say something about hoping I had my emergency lights on. So I went over and switched on the red and blue lights to assist in marking my location.

I then went back and the woman said something about "where is the ambulance?" I could hear sirens and looked over as several police cars arrived. I then slowly shuffled along the road towards them. Officers ran out of their cars to me and some went to attend to the injured.

Senior Constable Tanya Winter was a terrific assistance at the scene Tanya helped me to the side of the road. It wasn't long before I promptly threw up twice and deposited my dinner on the road. It was an amazing scene to behold watching all the police and ambulance crews going about their duties. Detectives were already on scene and began the important evidence gathering. Detective Laura Wadham did an amazing amount of investigative work to see both offenders convicted.





Senior Constable Tanya Winter assists at the scene.

After I got hit with my baton I thought that I had lost a lot of teeth but it ended up that parts of three teeth were lost and some poor officers spent a couple of hours looking for them.

Eight teeth were put back in place with my jaw and a titanium plate. The teeth are still tenuous and it could be years before it is known whether or not they eventually die and need replacing.

AFTERMATH

I was taken to hospital with an officer riding in the ambulance and police escort. Within a couple of hours the Ethical Standards arrived as did the Chaplain, Union lawyers and investigators. I had X-rays and scans and in the early hours of Sunday morning was able to finally get a bed.

My OIC and a number of officers stayed at the hospital and no-one would leave until about 5 am on the Sunday morning when I said I would be fine and needed some sleep.

I got a few hours sleep before the first visitors arrived around 8am. At around 11am the hospital asked me what I wanted to do, I could stay in for a day or two or could rest up at home.

There was no need to stay in hospital unless I wanted to. I thought I would rather be home. I would be seeing a maxillofacial specialist on Monday and would have an operation on Tuesday. My OIC wanted someone to stay at my home for a couple of days since I lived alone, the only problem is that almost everyone

worked 10pm -6 am and were exhausted and needed to go to their own homes to rest so I agreed that on the Sunday night someone could stay after they had their own rest. I was taken home around 1pm and showered and made my way back to work. My next shift started at 2pm and I was determined to be at work. For me it was my own personal victory to turn up back at work while the offenders were still in hospital. So I fronted the OIC at 2pm and turned up for duty. Of course I was promptly told to go home, but there was paper work to be done on sick leave etc and other officers' wanted to talk with me and so I said I would as soon as I did the required paper work.



At hospital. The swelling is starting to show.

I hung around the office until about 6pm when I couldn't stop the bleeding from my nose and so relented and took the rest of the shift off and the next three months on sick leave. If I feel the slightest bit off I am likely to take a sick day, but this was different, this was a matter of honour not only for me but as a police officer and I wasn't letting a criminal win.

I had great specialists look after me and put everything back where it was supposed to be, so I think my mental recovery was made a lot easier by that. It took almost a year for the swelling to go down completely but I was very lucky.

The QPS has been terrific through the whole experience from the Commissioner down. I know we have all heard stories where officers feel let down by the Service, but even now three years later I still am receiving 100% support in my recovery, of which I am grateful. There has been some talk about me having a Sentry Lock on my SLS holster.





I received injuries to both hands, including a broken finger. The injuries to the hand were preferable to letting Cardwell have both hands free to attack.

The Safariland SLS holster that we are issued with is an excellent holster, its only drawback is that in scuffles the hood has sometimes been rotated open, exposing the gun. The company brought out the addi-



tional lock which I had seen in the United States during one of my training visits. I had put the lock on my holster when I returned not long before this incident. I have no doubt that it prevented my firearm falling out during the fight or being accessed by the offender when he attempted to take it.

That night a host of items from my belt and pockets were recovered from the roadway including a pocket knife that I had in my trousers pocket. I had little doubt the firearm stayed where it was supposed to be thanks to the Sentry Lock.

I understand some officers are not happy to have been forced to put it on but let me just say I have heard of many incidents where the SLS hood has accidentally been depressed and opened. Even though I was badly injured and operating on automatic I was still able to unlock and draw my firearm quickly and also return it to the holster and lock it with no troubles whatsoever. It is a life saver. Please use it.

A later search of Cardwell's car found weapons and drugs. There was an extendable baton and a billiard ball in a sock, which although sounding simple enough can be a devastating weapon. I have located guns and knives on people in traffic stops. Of course my thoughts later were if Cardwell had been carrying weapons on his person at the time he would have used them. He couldn't access the weapons in the car without me first seeing it and so he had to think of an alternate plan.

The strange thing is that he had been involved in two pursuits in the previous few months. One had been called off, one had not, due to radio problems on the M1 in which he eventually crashed. In my situation the car he was driving was registered (not to him but some guy who sold it to someone else before moving to W.A.) and had no flags on it. Had Cardwell simply ran when he saw my headlights switch on, there would have been no pursuit as it would have been called off and he would have escaped. Why for once did he decided to stop? That has not been answered.

On this night I had no premonition, no forewarning of danger. I even didn't have the bad feelings I mentioned earlier. All I can say if this is what happens to me when I don't have the bad feelings about a traffic stop I never want to find out what would happen if I did stop a car I had a bad feeling about.

One night a month before my incident one of our traffic officers had stopped a car just down the road from where I had made my stop. The driver leapt out with a knife. The officer drew his firearm and ordered him to drop the knife. The offender still holding his knife pointing at the officer to keep him at bay went around the front of his car and moved to the rear with the officer still following him. When the offender had first stopped he hit the boot release so when he got to the rear of his car he simply opened the boot and pulled down a cover from where a rifle was and had grabbed



it. The officer seeing that pushed the boot lid down on the offender and pinned him. As chance would have it another traffic officer, on a motorcycle just happened to arrive to check in and was able to assist.

In the three years since my incident I was on light duties for a year and was able to get myself back to work and on the road. I have had at least half a dozen incidents since where I have had to deal with potentially dangerous incidents including wrestling with offenders on the M1 at night, intercepting and arresting bikies and still our radio system has not been fixed. I have been more than a little annoyed whenever I have had to go to Brisbane and observed how many two officer crews were carrying Tasers and I am still wrestling and dealing with dangerous persons without one.

As far as officer safety goes, I have always kept myself aware of incidents where officers have been killed to ensure that I don't take get caught out. Only six months prior to my incident I read about Western Australian Police Sgt Shane Gray, who had made a traffic stop for a minor offence only to be attacked by the driver who happened to be William John Watkins who had fled Victoria and was wanted for a double homicide. Sgt Gray received serious injuries and was forced to shoot Watkins. About seven months before that Victoria Police Senior Constable Tony Clarke had made a routine traffic stop and was attacked by the driver who took the officers handgun which he used to kill him.

Even though I was aware of these and many other incidents and had officers who are friends of mine killed on duty, I never thought it would happen to me and sometimes despite the best preparation and skills, luck can be the deciding factor. It certainly was with me that night in June.

This article was originally published in the September 2009 issue of the Queensland Police Union Journal, and is published here with the permission of the author.



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“TAKE COVER!” Is it that simple?

By Chris Doughty

The use of cover or barricades is a combination of art and science. The art of conforming the human body to limit exposure and the science relating to ballistics and barricade density.

It is a subject often brushed over, being described as one of the main gunfight survivability factors, yet the practical application of the subject fails to make it into many Australian Police department's tactical syllabus.

This article is based around Progressive Force Concepts (LLC) barricade tactics syllabus, it is not based on official Police tactical doctrine. It is tried and tested in both Law Enforcement and Military applications.

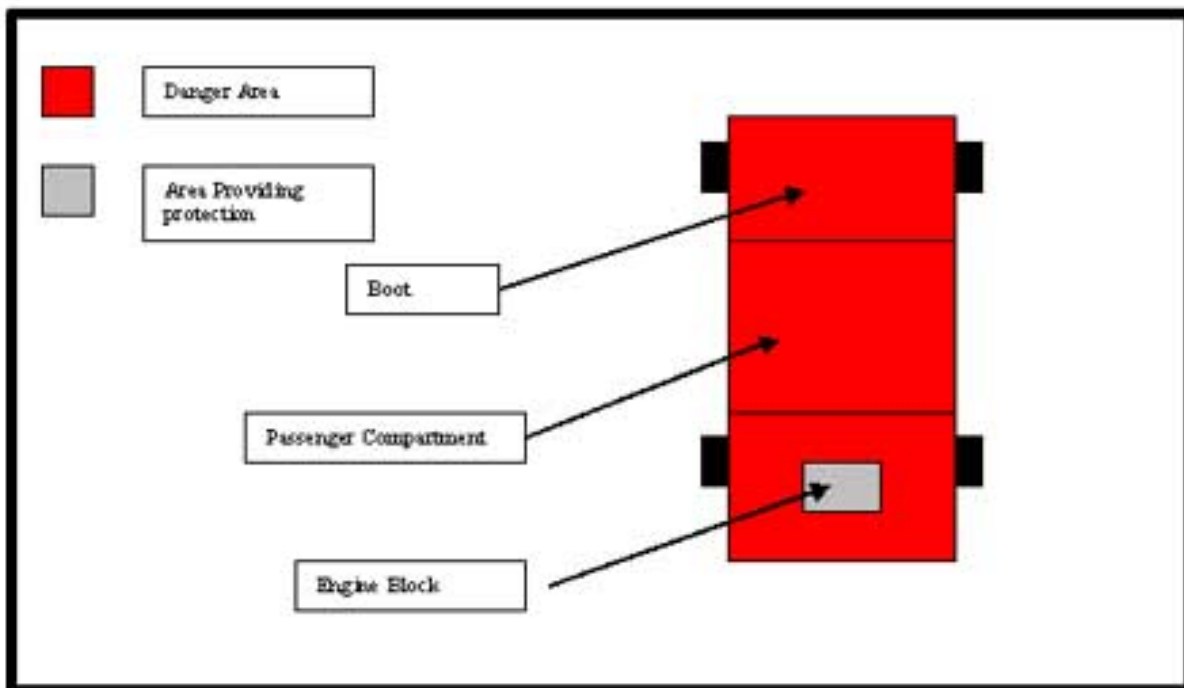
In case you were wondering PFC training does train as it fights, many of the photos in this article were taken during Private Security Detail courses for South East Asia, where relax civilian attire and covert carry is the norm.

Myth versus Fact: What is Cover?

Cover is any obstacle that will offer some protection from enemy fire and will generally protect you from view.

Concealment is any obstacle that may protect you from view but will not protect you from enemy fire.

A common form of concealment often mistaken for cover is a vehicle. One area of a vehicle likely to provide cover from some calibre weapons is the engine block, contrary to popular thought the engine block does not encompass the whole bonnet area of a car. The average engine block is little bigger than a full size basketball, would you like to gamble that you are crouching in exactly the right place?



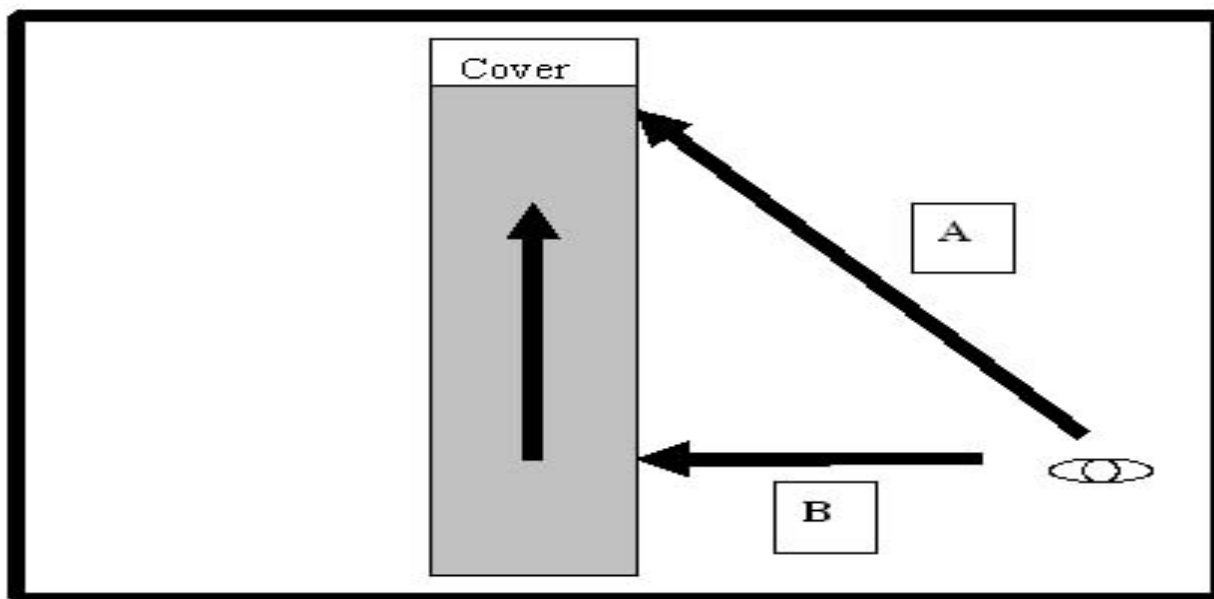
Illustrates the exit holes from 5.56 mm rounds and shotgun solid, fired through the front and side glass as well as diagonally through the engine bay (Exit holes on rear of vehicle). This vehicle was used in vehicle assault training in Las Vegas.



The Safe line versus the Straight line:

If I asked you the fastest way to travel from point 'A' to point 'B' the most likely answer would be "a straight line". Does this hold true when applied to the appropriate use of cover? No, it does not.

The best way to protect your self is to use cover as quickly as possible, notice I did not say get to cover as quickly as possible. The most expedient way to get behind cover is to use what can be referred to as the tactical "L". This method of movement is best described by use of a diagram and is shown in below:



The area denoting protection from fire is the grey area. Notice the distance travelled to reach this area; clearly the route 'B' or the Tactical 'L' provides the minimum exposure.

To ensure minimum exposure, conforming to cover begins as soon as you are in line with it.

Starting to stop and actually stopping:

As you approach cover you need to be aware of the speed you are travelling and the surface you are moving on. Chances are if you are getting shot at you are going to be moving faster than you ever have before. This means you need to tell yourself to slow down and prepare to stop earlier than you think. Why bother hauling ass to get to the point you want to stop which is protected by cover only to slide straight out into the open because you are moving too fast. Or just as bad, slam into a piece of cover and have it fall away from you or your team mates. This happened to one of our instructors whilst he was getting shot at in the sand box. As you can imagine he was pretty unhappy with his clumsy team mate.

Establishing Proper interval:

If I was asked the number one thing people mess up when it comes to the use of cover, it would be establishing the proper interval. It seems to be a natural instinct to get as close as possible to an object we think will protect us. This is a huge mistake when getting shot at, for a number of reasons:

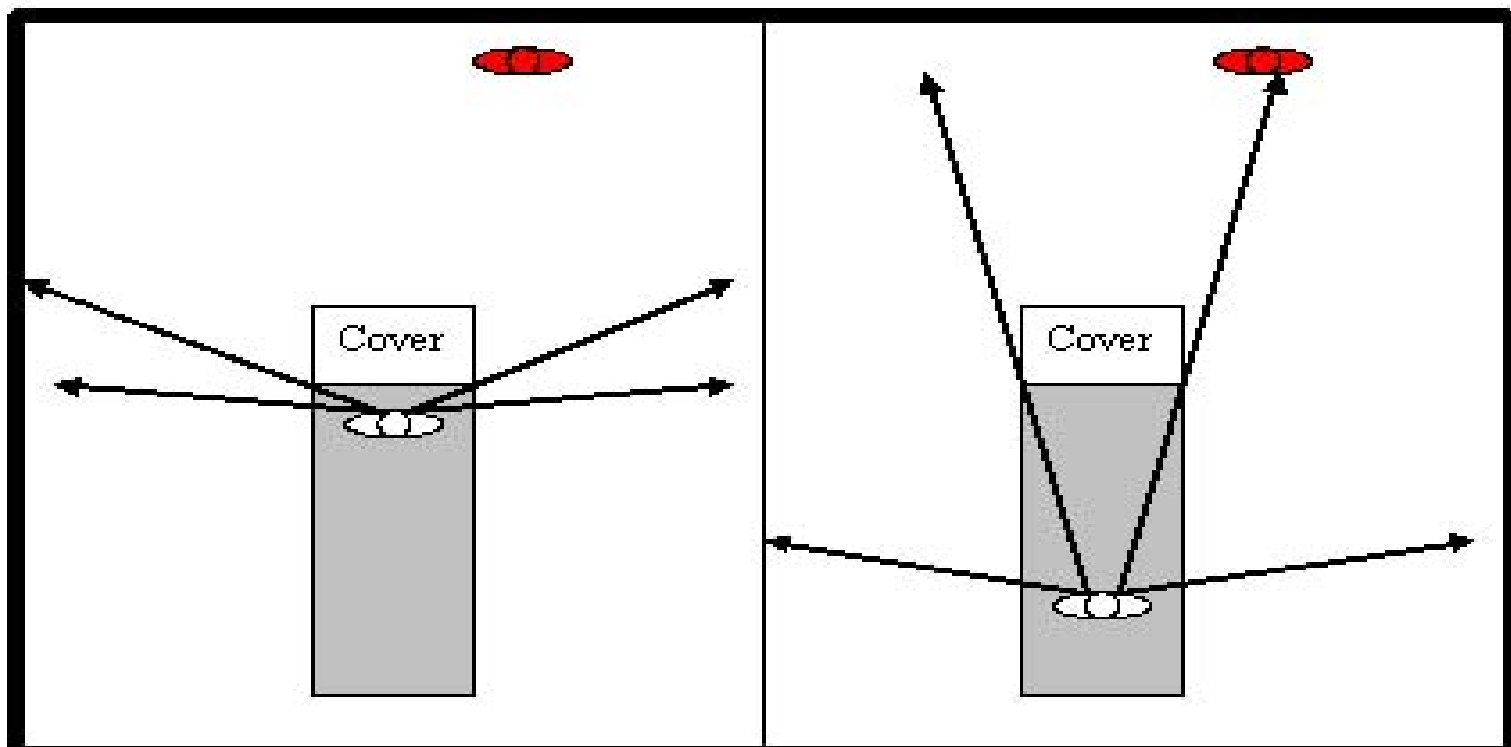
It kills your angles: The closer you are to the object the less you can see beyond it. Your ability to track adversaries, engage from various points around the barricade will be greatly reduced. As you can see in the below diagram, establishing proper interval allows you to view your adversary with a minimum of exposure.

You have to expose to present your weapon. If you are right up against cover you have no room to extend your weapon to a firing position and then expose only when ready to engage. Being on top of cover forces you to expose yourself, then bring your weapon up ready then engage. Longer exposure equals higher likelihood of being hit.

Losing your gun in a gun fight is a bad idea: Do you know for sure how many adversaries there are or their exact positions? Often being too close to cover means that to take up a firing position your weapon will be exposed past the barricade, giving a close adversary the opportunity to secure it and disarm you.

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Want to Conform to cover with Prone position? Great idea, pity you are too close to actually achieve it, you will be forced to move back so why not be there from the start.

So how do you gain proper interval? Well we have three simple steps:

Step 1: Approach cover with one hand outstretched, this reminds you to slow down so you don't break your arm and two it gets you in position for step two.

Step 2: From a stationary position, with your out stretched arm take one big boy step back from the piece of cover.

Step 3: This position of about 1.5 to 2.5 metres from the barricade is the perfect starting position to work your angles.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

Minimise Exposure:

Minimising the amount of your body protruding from cover obviously affords you less likelihood of being hit. Ensuring minimum exposure requires you to consider a number of factors:

Shooting Positions: To minimise exposure you have to conform to cover, I don't know about you but I haven't seen a piece of cover that is text book perfect for a 5'10 male "Speed Kneeling height and width". What does that mean, it means you have to bastardise your shooting positions, and sacrifice your perfect isosceles or weaver stance to conform to cover.

Vertical exposure Vs. Left and Right exposure:

This rule is one of simple anatomy. Any time you have to take a shot from behind a barricade you will invariably expose some part of your head to the enemy before your muzzle and sighting system clear the barricade. If you expose from the left or right side, you expose an ear, little bit of cheek, then your eye, which is in line with your muzzle and allows you to engage. If you expose vertically, your hair line is exposed, then your forehead, then your eyes and muzzle. Have a look in the mirror; your eyes are located half way down your face, from the top of your head but only a quarter of the way in from the left or right. Exposing vertically offers up twice the surface area to your adversary. I know which method I would rather use if given the choice.

Bilateral Shooting: This method of shooting a pistol consists of switching the dominant hand from left to right, right to left depending on the type of cover and the side you expose from. Shooting from the left hand side of a barricade with a right hand grip exposes a hell of a lot more of your body than shooting from the opposite hand. This method is essential to minimise exposure. The 'how to' of bilateral pistol shooting would be article in itself so I won't cover it here.

Figure 1: Left handed shooting from left side cover.

Figure 2: Right handed shooting from left side cover .

The art of exposure:

There are a number of things to consider when exposing to take a shot:

Variety will save your life: That's right, I am going to point out the obvious here but it needs to be said. If you stick your damn head up from the same height, on the same side of cover over and over again, it is going to get shot off. Use Bilateral Shooting, left and right side displacement, vertical displacement and multiple shooting positions to keep your adversary guessing about where you will emerge from your barricade to engage him.





Use Variety as a Psychological Force Multiplier: If you engage from enough different points around your barricade you will give the illusion that there is more than just you. This can be highly effective if you have a long or large piece of cover and move quickly. The more people he thinks he is up against the more likely he is to throw in the towel and bail or surrender.

Sight offset: a warning: One final point on the art of exposure, this point is more often an issue with a long gun than with a pistol. Remember the sight offset, just because you can see the bad guy through your sights and your sights are clear of the barricade it does not necessarily mean that your muzzle is clear of the barricade.

Know when to bail out:

Our Chief instructor has a saying "Cover is like bananas, it is real sweet but gets rotten real fast" Cover deteriorates at different speeds depending on the rate of fire, the calibre of weapon being used against it and the material or construction of cover. So do not get so focused down range that you have no awareness of what is going on right in front of you. Another issue is you may have only a couple of exposure points; this vastly improves the bad guys' odds of 'guessing right'. So the moral of the story is 'shoot and then move when you can but before you have to'.

Conclusion: The utilization of cover is a proven factor in the survivability in law enforcement gunfights; it is also a vastly misunderstood skill which requires thorough initial training followed by semi regular practice. If the use of cover is a primary factor contributing to the survivability of officers, then why is it all but ignored by a number of Australian Police jurisdictions? I believe it comes down to a number of factors, including: training time, misunderstanding of the subject and a false belief that live fire barricade training cannot be conducted safely.

A convenient thing about this subject matter is that although I strongly recommend live fire training in this discipline, the basic skills can be taught with just some make shift barricades and a couple of blue or red guns . Being taught the correct principles minus live fire is preferable to no teaching at all.

Chris Doughty spent almost a decade with a major Australian Police Department. His experience extends to remote area Policing, General duties, Public Order and Rapid Response and Operational Safety and Tactics Training. Over his career Chris attended a multitude of Australian and international courses in Firearms and Tactics, Defensive Tactics and Close Personnel Protection. He has had the honour of training with and providing training to many US Military, LE and Swat operators in conjunction with PFC USA. He is currently the lead instructor for Progressive Force Concepts Asia Pacific, a Philippines based Close Personnel Protection and Tactical Training company. He can be contacted at: doughty@pfctraining.com

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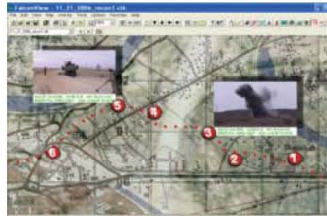
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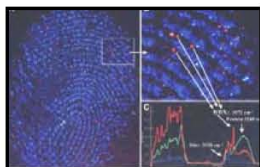


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The ISR Matrix

Doug Nicholson

The lights were off. I could faintly see the shadows moving quickly. The annoying sound of the loud music made it difficult to concentrate on what was happening, and I wondered how the shadows themselves were able to concentrate.

As my eyes adjusted, the shadows gained some substance, and I watched one dark form throw a series of hard punches at another dark form. The punches were hard enough for me to wince slightly. Even with boxing gloves on, I knew no Police Defensive Tactics Instructor would allow that amount of force to be used in training. Mainly because the students would not be able to defend themselves from it, as current DT's training is of little use with aggressive non-compliant offenders.

Not only that, but with the darkness reducing student's vision, the loud, (and really bad), music only permitted the students to hear their own breathing, and then you added torch light being strobed around the room and directly in your eyes; this was a serious training serial.

The defending dark form instantly protected his head with the "helmet", practiced hundreds of times in the last 2 days. Within seconds he had moved in and taken control of the attacker, and had him on the ground ready to be handcuffed.

But there was no time to stop. The situational awareness training was working, and the second attacker was quickly identified and then used to block the third attacker. And on it went...

The attackers went to the back of the line, waiting to do it all over again. Within a couple of minutes one of the attackers traded places with the defender. This went on for a good thirty minutes, at the end of a twelve-hour training day. I know the students were sweaty, out of breath, but they also appeared confident and relaxed.

I leant over to the instructor, Dave Pauli of ISR Matrix Australia, and asked, "Do the students normally progress to this level so quickly?"

Without stopping his strobing of the torch around the room and into the defender's eyes, Dave said, "Usually they're faster. This group is a little slower than average."

I didn't know what to say. I was impressed with the skills that could be taught so quickly, and trained at

100% realism / power / At the end of only two days of training, these students were defending themselves against multiple attackers, whilst experiencing sensory deprivation, and exhausted from two long days of training. Even after being marked "competent" in contemporary Australian Police Defensive Tactics training, there was no way on earth that I or my fellow Officers would have been able to perform to this standard. And to do so without suffering injury? Hell no!

ISR Matrix Australia is Australia's representative for ISR Matrix, being "a dynamic full spectrum integrated system of subject control and personal protection that thrives naturally throughout use of force continuums and mission specific modes of operation used by both sworn and non-sworn professionals worldwide," (ISR Matrix website). Dave Pauli, who runs *ISR Matrix Australia*, and has both a Law Enforcement & Military background, has already taught a number of ISR courses in Australia, and I was attending his Brisbane course in August.

ISR stands for *Intercept, Stabilise, Resolve*. For those of us who have been trained in contemporary Police DT / OST skills, ISR is a breath of fresh air. I specifically attended this course with the attitude of ascertaining how it would NOT work on the streets, where Officer Safety is the priority.

I was pleasantly surprised.

With a background in wrestling and jiu-jitsu, the nine core movements of ISR are interchangeable, with each technique linking from and to all other techniques. There is no definitive chain of movement that needs to be followed, with the techniques actually becoming easier the more the opponent moves, meaning that the dynamic nature of street incidents is perfectly suited to the techniques of ISR. And with the tendency today of perception being reality, the defensive blocks and movements of ISR that lead to subject control will obviously be perceived to be less aggressive than punches, kicks, and pain compliance that is taught now; especially in Coronial, Criminal and Civil courts, perception can make or break a case.

The 9 core components of ISR are as follows:

Intercept – "Helmet", "Dive, and "Arm Drag";

Stabilise – "Wrist Weave", "Harness", and "Underhook and Pike";

Resolve – "S position", "Back mount", and "Arm Wrap



and Knee Ride”.

There are other techniques and drills within the system, all of which complement, not replace, the 9 core techniques outlined above.

The initial stance used when practicing ISR is one that all Police should be familiar with; the Field Interview stance, or the common stance used when Police are writing in their field notebook, (although called the “Forklift” during ISR drills). This is just one of many ways that ISR has looked at what Police need, and have applied it to their training methodology. Have a baton or mag-lite in your hand? No problem, the initial movements of ISR can be conducted with those items in your hands.

Another important aspect of ISR that needs to be considered is reassessment, or situational awareness. All Police in Australia are taught the Use of Force model that requires them to reassess an incident constantly, but then are never taught to do that during the practical component of OST. ISR does. Within 4-5 hours of starting the 3-day course, students were defending themselves from, and controlling, multiple opponents, requiring them to constantly remain aware of their surroundings and reassess the situation as required by current Use of Force models. If Officers need to disengage from the threat, again, that is addressed within ISR.

Even offenders using passive resistance are able to be dealt with in a non-violent but effective manner.

Once the subject is controlled, there is no danger from positional asphyxia either. Again, ISR recognises the requirements of frontline Police, and once the subject is on the ground, (itself a simple and pain-free movement for both Officer and subject), the techniques allow an Officer to have control of the subject, whilst being able to free a hand to access their radio or handcuffs, and the subject is in no danger that is normally attributed to being face-down on the ground. The other common problem in Australia DT / OST training today, is that if an offender goes to ground on their back, the techniques used to get them onto their front for handcuffing are easily perceived as being “excessive force”. ISR again addresses this issue, using techniques that easily enable Police to control the subject and situate them into a better position.

All the drills utilised by ISR are basic natural movements, using the natural movements of the offender to control them. Not pain compliance, and not joint-locks. At all times, ISR allows the user to escalate or disengage, depending on the circumstances. It is fluid and dynamic, which current DT / OST systems are not.

ISR training comprises of three streams. Everybody undertakes the initial three-day course, which makes

them proficient in the fundamentals of the system, and then further training is available within the separate streams, being Civilian Defensive Tactics, Law Enforcement, and Military. The Law Enforcement course is an extra two days, which includes retention, disarms, counter-knife, vehicle extractions, and team subject control tactics. The additional material, like everything in all the ISR modules, is interwoven back into the core material - for example, drawing your weapon in the fight if necessary and preventing the subject from drawing theirs, all the while performing subject control.

As of the writing of this article, Dave Pauli of *ISR Matrix Australia*, is in the US with the leaders / founders of ISR, helping write the new training structure for the more advanced components of ISR, including:

1. Ground Survival, Ground Engagement and Resolution
2. Firearm Retention
3. Counter gun
4. Vehicle Extraction
5. Counter edged weapon
6. Team Tactics
7. Clinch with Cloth
8. Close Quarter Combat
9. Close Quarter Battle/Urban survival (includes ECQ firearms)
10. Water survival and combatives
11. Baton
12. Confined Spaces
13. Cell Extraction
14. Intra-vehicular combatives
15. Public Order Arrest Teams
16. Subject control for hospitals

Current DT / OST packages have a very heavy emphasis on joint locks and pain compliance, and due to the pain and injuries resulting from those techniques, the training is predominantly performed on static and compliant subjects, at half speed, or even slower. There is no ability to perfect techniques on non-compliant moving multiple opponents, simply because the likely outcome is injury instead of control. Even when practiced at half-speed, injuries have resulted from current DT / OST training, so I still find it hard to understand how Police Management are happy that the training provided to frontline Police is in accordance with the National Guidelines on Police Use of Force, being that the success of any Use of Force incident will be judged by the least amount of force used. Causing both Police and “clients” to be injured during relatively low-level Use of Force incidents is not a success, but a failure. But the failure is guaranteed by using inferior training and techniques, as using pain compliance techniques when everyone naturally resists pain means that our Police organisations are training frontline Police in techniques that cause people to resist arrest.

The techniques of ISR are able to be practiced at full speed, against multiple opponents, with the most serious injury likely to occur being a few bruises and physi-



cal exertion. That alone makes ISR vastly superior to any contemporary Police DT / OST package in use in Australia today. If no injuries are caused when drilled at full-speed, and control of an offender is still able to be achieved, then naturally there will be less criticism of Police actions; less law-suits arising out of excessive force claims; less costs involved with injured Police; and less likelihood of Police resorting to higher Use of Force options due to the inadequate nature of their DT / OST training. In fact, ISR does not encourage, nor advise, "higher" level of Use of Force.

Another obvious flaw in current techniques that ISR does not have, is gross motor skills. Police DT / OST trainers teach their students about the importance of utilising only a few basic movements as fine and complex motor skills cannot be relied upon during violent incidents, but then go on to teach dozens of complex movements in direct contradiction of the requirement for basic and simple movements.

The entire ISR package is based around 9 core movements, making the learning and application of the techniques a lot simpler.

The frontline Officer is better protected, the Police organisation is better protected from legal liability and other associated costs, and the public are protected from injuries when Police Force is used.

In short, everyone wins.

ISR truly bridges the chasm that exists in current DT / OST training for Police today in Australia. Current training can only be used on static subjects, one at a time, at slow speed, with Officers being unable to apply those techniques in a sweaty full-speed street incident with multiple offenders. Not only can ISR work on the street, but it can be practiced at full speed. Although not mentioned by the ISR site or instructor, I can see the potential of combining both PT and OST training into one package.

Imagine a "standard" length Police Recruit course of 6 months, with Officers undergoing the 5-day ISR training within the first 2 weeks of their course. From then on, their Physical Training during the remainder of the course could include an hour's worth of ISR practice, at full speed, 2-3 times a week. Yes, students will receive bruises, but when it comes to training our Police in how to survive violent incidents on the street, Trainers and Managers need to recognise the difference between bruises and injuries. A bruise is not an injury. If we teach our Police recruits to be scared of bruises in training, how are they going to react when they are assaulted on the job?

And that brings me to the next point about ISR training that I consider to be lacking in contemporary DT / OST training today. ISR students are taught to defend themselves when their eyes are closed; when they are dizzy and unable to stand upright (to simu-

late having been punched in the head); in the dark; or even with painfully loud music playing; all of which combine in producing efficient defensive reflexes in students, even when assaulted without warning, or in the common environment of the real world.

The benefit of having these relevant techniques used as PT, combined with the skills built up during an additional 20-30 hours of ISR training during PT for the remainder of the course will result in Officers who are confident and capable of handling themselves without having to resort to Aerosol Subject Restraints, Electronic Control Devices, Batons, or even simply pain-compliance joint-locks resulting in injured offenders, or even currently-taught techniques such as punches and kicks that never look good to witnesses. That alone would reduce the cost of excessive force complaints and law-suits, not to mention the cost of out of court settlements. Where's the negatives in that?

Even the restraint techniques used by ISR are easily justified in Court, sensibly avoiding the never-taught but oft-used choke/sleeper-hold, with ISR utilising the techniques that lifesavers use to drag drowning victims to safety.

Those Managers and Trainers who have convinced themselves that they are using the "World's Best Practice" (a meaningless claim often stated by naive or non-qualified Police Managers) in DT / OST training are actually justifying their statements by comparing their training programs with other stagnant and inefficient training programs in use by other Australian Police jurisdictions. Australian Police organisations have literally become inbred when it comes to DT / OST training and it is time that better training packages are brought into play. Police DT / OST trainers need to implement the following phrase that at least one Police organisation outlines as a major requirement for its trainers - *members will also be engaged in the research and development of relevant practices and technical advances.*

Australian Police organisations are performing a disservice to their staff, and the community they are expected to serve, by not implementing ISR.

Attached is some YouTube clips of ISR Matrix:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BpEzI7mleY> - ISR PM promo Adelaide.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbpxDNoEJyI> - ISR PM Promo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7UDd3Zgg8I> - Original LE promo

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_Qe2OoSaE8 - Team tactics promo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsLStyynEVs> - LE Promo



You may want to add this in your mag. keep up the good work

I recently attended a 3 day ISR Matrix Physical Management Foundation Skills course. By way of background, I have been involved in the military, the security industry and law enforcement field for over 10 years. Throughout this time I have always trained in Martial arts and defensive tactics and continually searched for a realistic/ effective system with no success. Then I found ISR. This course was just brilliant.

I have trained in wrestling and MMA for a long time (where a lot of the ISR techniques come from) but this is far more than a bunch of techniques. The ISR Matrix team have seriously done some quality research and development to establish 9 core techniques that flow systematically together. ISR Matrix allows you to keep complete control of the bad guy whilst always keeping in mind situational awareness, weapon retention and transition, team tactics and the ability to escalate or de-escalate your use of force at anytime.

Sure that sound sounds great but we drilled these 9 core moves over and over again to the point of having to apply them on full resisting opponents wearing boxing gloves who were trying to knock us out!

ISR just works. Unfortunately, as a police officer, I am not comfortable walking into dangerous situations with every partner I work with. However, I would gladly go up against any angry man with any Officer who has done an ISR course, safe in the knowledge that they have already had to make their training work for real! This system is a must for anyone serious about doing their job properly or wanting to defend themselves.

Tim

Australian Police Officer

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Pepperpot Photographics



2 x Reviews of the Back Defender, Back Defense Systems

Reviews written by NSWPol and WAPol members

Background: I have been in the job for about 5 years in a very busy metro Sydney Station. I am currently in Highway Patrol and work in the main 10 hour shifts but 12's are not uncommon. When Doug asked for volunteers to wear the back defender on the Response Australia web site, it was initially for states not including NSW. After some time he must have had some left over and asked for NSW Police members to throw their hand up and it was at that time I had a back injury from a deftac training day. I volunteered and the back defender was sent post haste and arrived a few days later.

THE LOOK: This is probably irrelevant to a large extent as the back defender braces are worn under your existing uniform. They are made of a type of nylon much like the Cordura belts, it has hard plastic clips and fasteners and it has ten points of adjustment. At the bottom of each of the downward braces are the recognisable basket weave keepers.

THE FITTING: This is an issue that I made all the more difficult as I did not watch the instructional DVD that came with it. I am a man after all, who reads or in this case watches instructions? I put them on and adjusted it the way I thought it should be. After fighting with it for 30 minutes with all the adjustments and trying to tuck my shirt around the keeper points I went to work. It did not feel right and if I am honest I thought it was rubbish. After two days of this I was ready to put the back defender in my locker and wear it no more, however my back was so sore and I thought I owed it to Doug to at least give it a proper go. The next day I watched the DVD and it cleared up a lot of problems I was having. It still takes along time to get the set up right which also includes wearing trousers or cargos that are a bit loose around the waist as the back defender adds about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to your waist, but once you have the set up sorted out putting the back defender on will only add an extra 3 to 5 minutes to your "getting dressed" routine. I stress again watch the DVD and have the back defender with you, it will save you a lot of time.

ON THE ROAD: After getting the fitting right the difference was amazing. The weight was no longer on my hips and waist but on my shoulders, sternum and upper back, it felt like I had a small back pack on. I seemed to have more flexibility as well, but my duty belt felt more secure than before. That night I was in-

involved in a foot pursuit and I noticed a remarkable difference when running. I was so used to the duty belt moving up and then coming down as I ran but I could not feel this. As an added benefit of this system is your accoutrements / appointments are obviously all in the same place hence your muscle memory is not affected when in situations where you are grabbing for your cuffs or other equipment. This was certainly the case when I caught up to the crook. I have also done days of point duty on my feet all day wearing this and the difference I found remarkable. NSW are currently trialling Load Bearing Vests and if these are rolled out, muscle memory is going to be an issue when or if these are issued.

After the first shift I had no sore back and I was very impressed with the back defender system. I have now been wearing it for about 6 weeks and I am honestly impressed with it. As a matter of fact I don't want to work without it. I never have a sore lower back any more and whilst aware the belt is there you don't really feel the weight. It's kind of hard to put into words the feeling of the back defender braces but they are a great idea.

THE FINAL WORD: This is no silver bullet for every one. I don't advocate that this should be the one stop answer for all officers with sore backs but certainly should be an option. There are cons so to speak with this system and in my opinion it is all to do with the initial setup. Once the set up is achieved which does take some time and may require new trousers or cargos and you will have to wear an under shirt, it adds very little time to getting ready for work. It is cheaper than the GAV and all other L.B.V.'s I have seen, it provides no grab points, requires no extra training (muscle memory) and retains the current appearance of the uniform as it is worn under your shirt. Most jurisdictions in Australia require an official approval from their agency before wearing anything not issued and I would suggest this would be the same. So if you are having back problems and do not like the LBV's out there start putting your reports in.

www.backdefensesystems.com





www.backdefensesystems.com



Up until the last three years, I wore a fairly standard set up for most police officers: leather inner and outer Helweg belts supporting OC spray, Glock pistol, extendable baton, small torch (Wolfeyes), Leatherman, portable radio, Saf-lok handcuffs, Taser and spare magazine.

With recent uniform changes in WAPOL, I now have light-weight Kevlar inner & out belts which carries the Taser and supports a thigh mounted holster. All the other equipment is on a WAPOL load bearing vest.

I've never had any real issues with any of the equipment, just the usual grizzles about comfort and how everything sits. The worst I've suffered is minor lower back pain, which disappears after a day or two of not wearing the gear.

When I received the Back Defense System, I decided to try it with the various combinations available to me: light weight or leather belts, hip mount or thigh mount holster, LBV or everything back on the outer belt. My muscle memory played havoc with me, but as I was mainly at training events, it wasn't a huge issue. It did allow me to demonstrate (involuntarily) why correct muscle memory is so important.

The first time I wore the Back Defense, it was without any accoutrements around the office just to see how it felt. It wasn't uncomfortable, but I could feel it there all day long. I found the down straps were a little uncomfortable where they rested on my hips.

The next day I was at the range using my latest WAPOL equipment (light weight belts, thigh mount holster, LBV) and the Back Defense. It didn't give me any benefit and I found it annoying. I guess you can wear too much gear.

The following week, I went back to all my original gear (everything on the leather belts) and the Back Defense. I was running a basic rifle course, so there was plenty of moving between standing, kneeling and lying prone. The Back Defense did a good job of holding my belt in position. It didn't restrict me in any way as I ran the course. I didn't notice any lower back pain at the end of the day, but there were marks on my hips and upper legs from each of the down straps.

A couple of days later, I was back on range conducting a firearms re-qualification wearing the old gear. Again, the Back Defense performed well at holding my belt in position. I found the slight pressure on my shoulders and torso annoying. The down straps were rubbing my hips, just enough to let me know where they were. At the end of the day, I had no lower back pain, but I did have two pressure marks on my upper legs from the down straps. I wore exactly the same set-up with exactly the same result: no pain, but glad to be rid of all the gear at the end of the day.

The following week I had a training event at Manji-

mup, which is a two hour drive. I wore all the old gear with the Back Defense. During the drive (in a Ford Falcon wagon), I kept wishing I had worn my new set-up. The Back Defense wasn't to blame; it was having all that equipment jammed around my hips whilst driving that caused some pain. I completed the training and did not enjoy the drive back at all.

On the next two days, I was running speed detection courses (radar & laser). I wore full accoutrements for each on-road session, the Back Defense one day and the latest WAPOL equipment the next. It confirmed for me that I prefer the latter.

I did spend about an hour in a Toyota Hilux 4x4 patrol van, a fairly standard vehicle for regional WA. At 190cm tall and 100kg, I don't exactly slide in easily. The down straps on the Back Defense were annoying on my hips. It didn't matter how I adjusted them, they just kept digging in. I was glad to get out of that van. I couldn't adjust the seats to suit my long legs, a problem I didn't have in the Falcon.

I gave the Back Defense one last try-out for a day on range. It reinforced my belief that it's not for me. It does reduce the back pain I used to feel, but I find it time consuming to put on and annoying to wear. To get the full benefit, I had had to wear my loosest fitting pants, loosen my belts to the last notch and have all my accoutrements on my belt (a set-up I was glad to abandon when the LBV came along).

By comparison, the light-weight belts, thigh mount holster and LBV don't cause me pain, are easier to put on and are more comfortable when in a vehicle. The LBV does have heat-retention issues, which doesn't overly bother me.

Trialing the Back defense did reinforce my belief that there is no "one-piece-fits-all" set up. Police departments should allow officers to try various set-ups (all on the belt, LBV/GAV) to find what suits them best and let them wear it. For officers who wear everything on their belt, the Back Defense may prevent lower back pain.

What should you do? Don't let my opinion stop you. If you can get your hands on a Back Defense, give it a go. You may find it works for you.

Gary Carthew
South West District Training Office
Bunbury, WA

Gary Carthew is a senior constable with Western Australia Police, with over 19 years experience. Currently the Satellite Trainer/Assist District Training Officer for the South West District, responsible for the critical skills (firearms & Taser) re-qualification for over 200 officers; other courses and training conducted as required.

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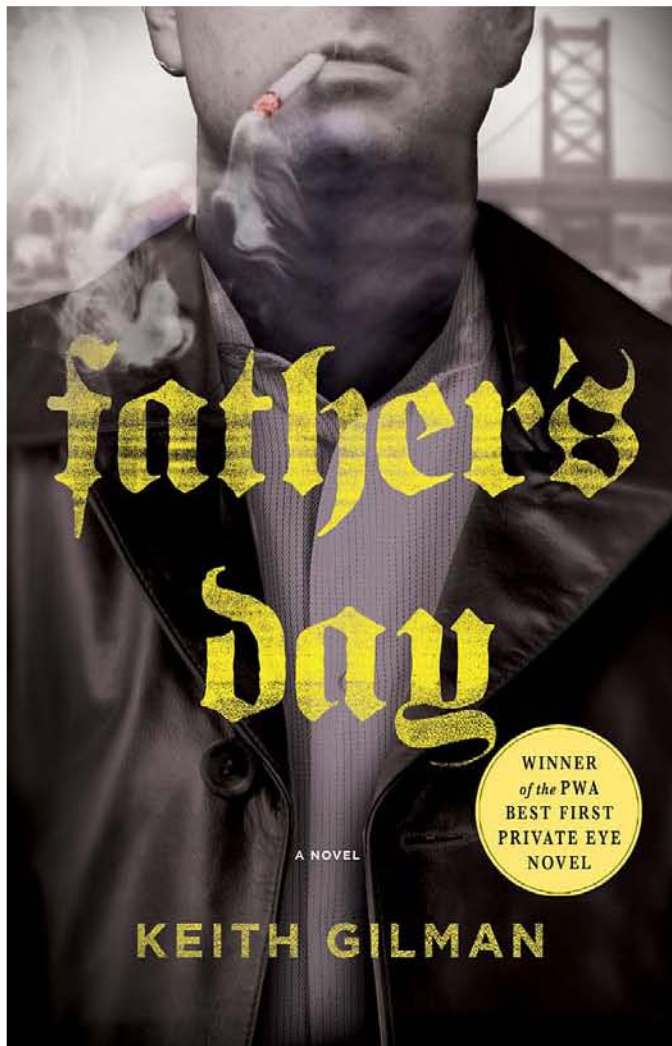


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Father's Day is Keith Gilman's provocative debut from St. Martin's Press and Minotaur Books. It was awarded Best First Novel by the Private Eye Writers of America.

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ADVANCE PRAISE

"Fresh, authentic, and downright gut-wrenching, **FATHER'S DAY** grabbed me by the collar and wouldn't let go. Gilman's voice is a powerful new addition to the crime fiction community."

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"The best fiction has this feeling that someone's just leaned close to whisper in our ear: 'I've something important to tell you.' **FATHER'S DAY**, Keith Gilman's debut novel has, and sustains, that quality from the first page. You know right away that you're in the hands of a natural and very fine storyteller. Authenticity, voice, the sense of lives beyond the page, all those things we crave as readers and for which we work so hard as writers, tossing the bones, hoping the magic will work -- all are solidly, soundly in place."—James Sallis, author of *Drive* and the *Lew Griffin* series

"Dark, gritty and hauntingly lyrical, **Keith Gilman** writes noir with the authenticity of a cop who has actually worked the mean streets," ---Robin Burcell, award-winning author of *Face of a Killer*

"There's so much genuine suspense in this book. So much wisdom and humanity. **Keith Gilman** obviously knows these cold hard streets he's writing about, and he knows how to tell a hell of a story."

Steve Hamilton – Edgar and Shamus award winning author of the *Alex McKnight* Series

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Keith Gilman is a cop. He was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania and he's been a police officer in the Philadelphia area for over fifteen years. He knows how cops think. He knows what cops know. He's seen things most people only see in their nightmares. He walks the walk and he talks the talk, and in **FATHER'S DAY**, his debut novel from St. Martin's Minotaur, he pulls back the curtain on his disturbing vision of a decaying urban world, haunted by shadows of deceit and death.

You can find out more about Keith Gilman at his website: www.keithgilman.com.

STAY SAFE OUT THERE!

Just some of the media headlines from around the nation over the last two months showing how dangerous Policing can be.

4th August 2009 - **Rotting drug puts two NSW police officers in hospital**

20th August 2009 - **Police dog stabbed, woman shot**

23rd August 2009 - **Melbourne cops under siege**

24th August 2009 - **Police officer injured after brick allegedly thrown at him**

26th August 2009 - **Speed cameras are killing cops, inquest hears**

28th August 2009 - **Police officer dodges speeding car**

30th August 2009 - **Policeman allegedly punched, eye-gouged**

31st August 2009 - **Woman 'scratches policeman's eyeball'**

7th September 2009 - **Off-duty police officer and ex-cop in hospital**

15th September 2009 - **Police fear bkie gang plotting a hit**

18th September 2009 - **Cop foils gun-toting bandits**

25th September 2009 - **Man wielding scissors disarmed by cop**



AFP-IDG-ORG Talisman Saber



The Australian Federal Police took part in Blue Force village security operations on Exercise Talisman Saber.

Members of the AFP's International Deployment Group (IDG), Operational Response Group (ORG), conducted security and policing activities inside the Urban Operations Training Facility (UOTF) inside Shoal Water Bay Training Area.

The UOTF simulates a typical urban layout and during Talisman Saber it became a key test area for Blue Force elements with humanitarian aid activities, and civil disturbance management.

Once secured by the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, the UOTF was handed over to the AFP for security and policing operations.

Working at the Urban Operation Operations Training Facility (UOTF), located within the Shoalwater Bay Training Facility, soldiers and police have taken part in activities that range from dealing with potential terrorists to conducting humanitarian support operations.

The UOTF is a purpose built urban environment that combines cutting edge computer technology, that tracks the movements of each training participant, with traditional urban combat scenarios to train defence personnel real life scenarios.





Operation Kokoda Assist



The Australian Federal Police's Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Team , (including members from VicPol DVI) , was deployed to PNG recently to help identify the victims of the recent aircraft crash near the Kokoda track in PNG. Due to the harsh nature of the terrain, the Australian Defence Force deployed air assets to assist the AFP in their mission.

With the crash site located a thousand feet above the cloud face, reaching the site safely was difficult, resulting in some of the AFP team being winched into the area until a Landing Zone for the Black Hawk helicopters could be created out of the thick forest.

The duties of the AFP DVI team members was difficult, as the crash site was spread out over a steep hillside as you can see from the attached pictures.







RESPONSE AUSTRALIA ONLINE FORUM

The Response Australia online Forum is provided to our readers to alleviate the suffering caused by having to wait for two months between issues of "RA".

It can be joined by anyone, and any subject can be discussed at length. For current-serving members of Law Enforcement, or those with prior service, there is also a secure section for you to discuss more "sensitive" issues, and to network with members from many different jurisdictions, and not just within Australia and New Zealand. Verification occurs for anyone wishing to gain access to the secure areas.

So whether you're a regular member of other online Forums, or have never looked at online Forums before, you are more than welcome to join our little group.

The difference between our online Forum and a lot of others, is that we will not permit backstabbing or undue criticism of our colleagues. The basis behind Response Australia is to *support* our Law Enforcement community, and that forms the basis of any discussion in the Forum.

But instead of having to wait two months between issues of the *Response Australia eMagazine*, you can keep up to date with reviews, comments, hints and tricks, and make friends for years to come.

So, check it out, and say "G'day."

responseaustralia.freeforums.org

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Response Australia is on the lookout for interesting photographs to include in future issues of *Response Australia eMagazine*. If you have any original images of Police, Customs, or other Law Enforcement members, vehicles, or "action shots", then please send them our way. We all love a good sense of humour, so if you have any funny original images relevant to Australian and New Zealand Law Enforcement, we'd love to receive them too.

Please send all photographs to editor@responseaustralia.net with details of when the image was taken, by whom, and where.

If you require faces or other identifying marks to be removed or obscured, we will do that at your request.

R.A. NEWS

This issue's *Response Australia* quote.

**“Amateurs train until they get it right.
Professionals train until they can't get it wrong.”**

Unknown

“Early days” for TASER?

The VicPol Chief Commissioner, Simon Overland, when directly questioned about the issuing of TASER ECD by VicPol members on their internal discussion board, stated, *“There are reports by the NSW Ombudsman, a Canadian report by their equivalent to the Director of Police Integrity and one from Amnesty International that in particular support our position, which is to have tasers available to specialist units, but not to go to general issue. While I am aware of decisions by other Australian jurisdictions to go to general issue it is still early days and so we continue to watch what is happening in those states.”*



While I am aware of decisions by other Australian jurisdictions to go to general issue it is still early days and so we continue to watch what is happening in those states.”

Come on CC Overland. “Early days”? TASER devices have been used internationally for over a decade, so why wait to see what other Australian jurisdictions are doing? The NSW Ombudsman’s report stated that a man subject to TASER and died 2 weeks later was a reason to ban TASER. The Canadian report was regarding a drug user subject to multiple TASER devices who died from “excitable delirium”, and Amnesty International states that anyone who sees a TASER and dies is a TASER-caused death! Are you really going to use those reports to reduce the available defensive options to your frontline staff? You may not have to face violence every day, but your troops do!

WA finally gets Mandatory Sentencing for Assault Police matters

On September 10 2009, the WA Parliament approved the legislation that will, in the majority of cases, send offenders who assault Police Officers, to prison for at least 6 months, (or 3 months for juvenile offenders).

On September 22 2009, the Legislation received Royal Assent from the WA Governor, which was the final hurdle for the Legislation.

There will be a requirement for Police Officers to obtain a medical certificate outlining the injury caused as a result of the Assault, as it must at the very least cause some bodily injury, and the initial prosecution must be approved by an Officer of the rank of Sergeant or above.

This is a step in the right direction, and hopefully other jurisdictions will follow suit, sooner rather than later.



R.A. NEWS

NSWPol receives TASER. On the 6th of September 2009, the NSW Premier and Police Minister "handed over" 2000 TASER Electronic Control Devices. These TASER ECD will be equipped with cameras.

QPol Covert Body Armour trial has not even started. Announced over 2 months ago, the working group established to examine the "issue" has met only once, and subsequent meetings have been cancelled. Does QPol even care about Officer safety?

VicPol ballistic vests are now being trialled. The ballistic and stab-resistant vests are supposedly designed to be worn as a full overt vest or covert vest, and also able to bear most of the Officer's accoutrements if they wish. It will not be a mandatory requirement to wear any form of the vest though.

NSWPol tendering for Load-bearing vests. The tender for NSWPol's Load-bearing vests has been announced, supposedly due to back-injuries resulting from too much equipment on Officer's belts, and sidearms are expected to be moved to drop-holsters. Hopefully NSWPol does not take the same path as QPol and issue the ridiculous "GAV".

NTPol Senior Officers are failing their staff. A survey among NTPol staff has revealed that 4 out of 5 NTPol Officers feel that senior management are not supporting them.

WAPol to axe high-powered Highway Patrol vehicles. Earlier this year it was announced that WAPol would have to make budget cuts to meet the WA Govt's requirements, and it was made quite clear that the cuts would not effect frontline Policing. Well, to meet those cuts WAPol has announced that they will no longer purchase high-powered (supercharged or turbo) V6 cars for their Highway Patrol fleet, and instead expect them to drive the base model. Maybe there's some confusion as to what "frontline policing" is? I wonder what the Commissioner will still be driving?

QPol "embarrassed". As a result of some off-duty QPol SERT members having a bucks party and conducting a not-so-tactical nude run, QPol decided to announce to the media that they were in fact QPol members, which no one in the media at the time was aware of. The QPol Commissioner then publicly stated that it was one of the worst times in QPol history that he was aware of. Apparently an off-duty nude run is more serious than the QPol Officers injured and killed in the line of duty, not to mention the Palm Island Officers who thought they were going to die during the rioting and burning of their station?



R.A. NEWS

New AFP Commissioner Tony NEGUS



On September 7 2009, the new AFP Commissioner, Tony Negus, was sworn in. He has been a member of the AFP since 1982. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership. Tony has completed the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard University, in the United States and is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In June 2005 Tony was named in the Queen's Birthday honours list and awarded the Australian Police Medal.

During his career with the AFP, Tony has worked in a variety of fields, including community policing, federal investigations, training and protection. He has been the officer in charge of both the AFP Brisbane and Sydney Offices, as well as heading up the AFP's protection responsibilities.

In July 2006, Tony was appointed as the National Manager of Human Resources. In this role he was responsible for Learning and Development, Professional Standards and Human Resource issues across the organisation. On 19th October 2007 Tony was appointed Deputy Commissioner Operations where he has responsibility for High Tech Crime Operations, Border activities, the AFP International Liaison Network, Economic and Special Operations, Forensics and the International Deployment Group.

NTPol Commissioner To resign

Paul White, the Commissioner of NTPol since 2002, has announced that he will resign from his position on October 16th 2009, to return to South Australia. Commissioner White had a difficult start having to overcome the systemic nepotism of NTPol's Senior Management, but he successfully made some very positive changes within NTPol. Hopefully his successor is just as professional. Well done Commissioner White, and thank you for your service.



R.A. NEWS

New VicPol "Divvie van"



The new VicPol Holden divisional van features six airbags in the passenger compartment and a custom-designed rear pod aimed at meeting "the rigorous demands of police duties". The pod is a unique, fully self-contained, secure two person transport module designed for a very long service life.

The streamlined design enables low centre of gravity and low wind resistance which when combined with the Commodore Ute provides excellent high-speed handling and stability. The divisional van has been given a VicPol Silver functional classification, making it suitable as a first response vehicle. Only the Commodore SS and SV6 sedans in the Holden police car range have a higher functional classification, but the divisional van is closing the gap. Holden will supply more than 200 divisional vans to the Victoria Police, beginning in November this year.

(For high-resolution images, e-mail editor@responseaustralia.net)



Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS) Upcoming events

CEPS Conference: Dealing with Uncertainties in Policing Serious Crime 8 October 2009

2009 CEPS Annual Research Colloquium 17 November 2009

2009 Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology conference 22 November 2009

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Brief: August 2009

06 August 2009

When the glitter settles: safety and hostility at and around gay and lesbian public events

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Next Issue

December 2009



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