April 2014, Newsletter:

In an effort to keep law enforcement professionals up to date on current events in this rapidly changing profession we post events daily at http://www.ldconsultingllc.com/news. Please make this one of your favorites and check it every day or two for the latest current events in law enforcement.

Each month we spend hours combing through hundreds of articles to find the articles posted on our site. All the articles we feel are relevant to law enforcement administration / inspections / auditing / risk management issues are listed in the newsletter. The most time sensitive articles are posted on the website news page. As a result the newsletter contains more information than the webpage. This month the newsletter is over 50 pages and is archived on the site to facilitate research.

In April the DOJ completed their investigation of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). On April 10, the DOJ announced their findings that the APD engaged in a pattern or practice of excessive force that violates the Constitution under federal law. As a result of the historical UOF issues / officer involved shootings, during the month of April the APD had a cyberattack on a city website, criminal damage to several of their police stations, riots and threats against officers. The APD has named a new assistant chief to oversee the reforms and hired a law firm / consultant to come in and assist them in working with the DOJ on this issue.

As a result of the DOJ findings the APD independent review board has come under scrutiny for ruling a number of the UOF incidents in policy that the DOJ investigations found issues with. The DOJ is in the public meetings phase of this investigation.

This month the DOJ announced the creation of the center on building community trust regarding the disconnect between law enforcement and communities of color.

A.G. Eric Holder also called on all first responders – including state and local law enforcement agencies – to train and equip their men and women on the front lines to use the overdose-reversal drug known as naloxone.

On April 28, 2014, A.G. Holder: Justice Dept. to Collect Data on Stops, Arrests as Part of Effort to Curb Racial Bias in Criminal Justice System. April 28, 2014, DOJ News: The data collection is one part of the Department’s new National Center for Building Community Trust and Justice. It will be funded through $4.75 million in competitively awarded grants. The grant recipients will be named later this year.

As reported last month, Las Vegas and Philadelphia have embraced the COPS model to address officer involved shooting / UOF issues. This Phoenix Police Department Inspections Unit is working with other stakeholders in the PD to evaluate their officer involved shooting / UOF incidents to identify and address any issues and / or trends.

In consideration of a recent California court decision the LAPD changed their UOF policy recently and the LASD is currently considering a change as well. Los Angeles County
sheriff's officials are revisiting the department's policy governing when and how deputies can use physical force, in light of a court ruling last year that officers can be held liable even for actions that led up to a shooting.

In light of these current trends it would be in the best interest of agencies to evaluate their UOF and officer involved shooting incidents to identify issues BEFORE the issues are highlighted by external sources. To identify best practices regarding these issues a review of the DOJ - COPS report for Las Vegas would be a good starting point. If you would like to be proactive in this area please contact me at dan@ldconsultingllc.com our staff has years of experience dealing with UOF issues / policies.

Regarding oversight; On April 1, the New Orleans PD Independent Monitor released their 2013 report. A link to the report has been provided with the article link in the newsletter.

Regarding technology: The number of agencies testing or body cameras is expanding every month.

If you read related news events we have missed please e-mail me at Dan@ldconsultingllc.com and we can make sure we include them. You can also leave a comment at the bottom of the news page. The newsletters are archived on the site for your convenience.

**Newsletter Categories:**
- Audit related
- U.S. DOJ
- Oversight
- Technology
- Special Interest
- Misconduct

**Audit related:**

**Tampa PD to get series of audits?**

April 1, 2014, WTSP.com: Tampa, FL -- The Tampa Police Department will undergo a series of mini-audits that Chief Jane Castor says are designed to improve her agency's service and safety. "To that end we developed a Professional Standards Bureau, which will have the internal affairs under it and then a quality assurance manager position," Castor told reporters Tuesday morning in announcing the move. Castor says the new Professional Standards Bureau, which will conduct the audits, will conduct reviews in four main areas:

- Use of Force and Vehicle Pursuits
- Complaints and Quality of Service
On Tuesday, Castor kicked off the program with some vehicle and equipment inspections.


**Orleans sheriff overcharged city for ankle monitoring program, inspector general finds**

April 2, 2014, Times Pecayune: Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman overcharged the city for an ankle-monitoring program for criminal defendants and Mayor Mitch Landrieu's administration did not catch the errors, according to a report released Wednesday by the city's inspector general.

The report found Gusman's office billed the city $23,000 in 2012 for defendants who were already covered by a separate grant or who had been removed from the program. The program also ran deficits of more than $114,000 in each 2011 and 2012, due to faulty calculations such as an erroneous 12-fold increase in the rent cost for the program's office.

Link to report:


**Inspector General: Chicago police underreported aggravated assaults, batteries in 2012**

April 7, 2014, Chicago Tribune: Chicago police did not report about a quarter of the aggravated assault and aggravated battery victims in its crime statistics in 2012, an audit by the city's top watchdog found.

The department failed to follow state guidelines by counting each aggravated assault or battery as one incident, not each victim as it should have, leading to the underreporting because of all the incidents that involved multiple victims, according to the inspector general's office.


**Audit: LAX paid $8 million to LAPD for services it cannot provide documentation for**

April 11, 2014, Southern Cal Public Radio: Los Angeles International Airport paid about $7.87 million to the Los Angeles Police Department to provide unspecified services and there is no documentation to support the payments, according to an audit from the
Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Transportation. The full report can be read below.


**SJPD Auditor Report Recommends Firing Some Officers**

April 18, 2014, SAN JOSE (CBS SF) — An independent police auditor and former judge delivered her year-end report on the San Jose Police Department, which included a recommendation to fire some officers.

Former judge LaDoris Cordell hand delivered the report Thursday, which recommends the department start firing officers caught lying to internal affairs investigators.

The report noted two sustained cases where officers had sex while on duty, and later falsified reports, or lied about the incidents. Both officers were disciplined, but not fired.


**Dallas police trainer placed on administrative leave after audit finds discrepancy in recruit’s test scores**

April 24, 2014, Dallas News: The Dallas Police Department has placed an academy instructor on administrative leave while they look into allegations that he improperly lowered a recruit’s test score.

The instructor is alleged to have “intentionally altered” the driving test scores of a recruit who later came under scrutiny by the Dallas Police Association. The association alleged that the recruit had been allowed to take the driving test over and over again until he passed, which police officials had denied.

The department said the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement discovered the discrepancy during a routine audit.


**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Feds Won't Reopen Pittsburgh Police Rights Probe**

April 1, 2014, ABC: A federal prosecutor won't reopen a criminal civil rights investigation into three white Pittsburgh police officers who were successfully sued by a young black man for wrongful arrest.

Albuquerque mayor asks DOJ to help with police

April 2, 2014, Houston Chronicle: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Days after violent protests led officers to launch tear gas at hundreds of unruly demonstrators, Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry on Wednesday requested the Justice Department to step in and help the city overhaul its troubled police force.

The Republican mayor asked the DOJ in a letter "to expedite and complete" its current review of Albuquerque police and work with the city to develop a new monitoring proposal.


Mayor asks DOJ to expedite investigation, enter into negotiations to monitor APD

April 2, 2014, KOB.com: Albuquerque mayor Richard Berry has sent a letter to the Department of Justice, asking the DOJ to expedite their investigation of the Albuquerque Police Department.

Berry has also requested the DOJ to enter into negotiations to develop a plan to monitor APD.


DOJ Announced the Creation of the Center on Building Community Trust at a Forum Discussing the Disconnect Between Law Enforcement and Communities of Color

April 4, 2014, : New York City, New York – Today the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) convened law enforcement and civil rights leaders on the topic of building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This first in a series of events from the COPS Office is designed to answer President Obama’s call to action to support men and boys of color in his My Brother’s Keeper Initiative.

Under Director Ronald L. Davis' leadership, the COPS Office has made building trust in communities one of its top priorities, and is committed to assisting law enforcement agencies enhance relationships in the communities they serve, particularly in communities of color.


New Orleans PD consent decree’s rules on paid police survive legal challenge.

April 7, 2014, New Orleans Advocate: A federal judge dealt New Orleans police officer groups a stiff blow Monday in their bid to undo the new city-run system for managing
paid police details, a major piece of the federal consent decree governing reforms to the Police Department.

In a 15-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan rejected all of the groups’ points, including claims that the city’s new oversight of off-duty work steals business from NOPD officers, that it violates civil service regulations by setting pay rates for officers, and that it illegally shreds contracts by taking over management of moonlighting gigs that were long run by the cops themselves. Some officers complain they are having to take a pay cut, with hourly rates under the new system starting at $29.33 an hour for regular cops and rising to $39 for top NOPD brass.


ACLU want federal monitor for Albuquerque PD

March 7, 2014, KOAT7TV: The American Civil Liberties Union is demanding reform at the Albuquerque Police Department. In addition to wanting a federal monitor the ACLU wants the city council to pass a law requiring APD officers to turn on lapel cameras for every call. APD policy does not currently require such action.


DOJ to present findings Thursday; City Council meeting on Albuquerque PD’s use of force concludes


DOJ Findings on Albuquerque Police Department

April 10, 2014, DOJ Press Release: Following a comprehensive investigation, today the Justice Department announced its findings that the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) has engaged in a pattern or practice of excessive force that violates the Constitution and federal law. The department delivered a letter setting forth these findings to Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry and Police Chief Gorden Eden this morning.

The investigation was launched on Nov. 27, 2012, and was conducted jointly by the department’s Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Mexico. The investigation examined whether APD engages in an unconstitutional pattern or practice of excessive force, including deadly force, as well as the cause of any pattern or practice of a violation of the law. This investigation did not assess whether any conduct violated criminal laws. Specific cases have been referred to the Criminal Section of the division for consideration.

The department found reasonable cause to believe that APD engages in a pattern or practice of excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The department specifically found three patterns of excessive force:
APD officers too frequently use deadly force against people who pose a minimal threat and in situations where the conduct of the officers heightens the danger and contributes to the need to use force;

· APD officers use less lethal force, including electronic controlled weapons, on people who are passively resisting, non-threatening, observably unable to comply with orders or pose only a minimal threat to the officers; and

· Encounters between APD officers and persons with mental illness and in crisis too frequently result in a use of force or a higher level of force than necessary.

The Justice Department looks forward to continued cooperation with the city and the Albuquerque Police Department to resolve these findings under mutually agreeable terms that will provide accountability to the public and accomplish the remedial measures within a fixed period of time.


http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/apd_findings_4-10-14.pdf

Albuquerque Mayor selects team to help with DOJ talks

April 11, 2014, KOB4: Two men will play a major part in the city of Albuquerque’s negotiations with the U.S. Department of Justice over a new future for APD – and they’re not even from here.

“Been there – done it” could be their motto. Scott Greenwood and Tom Streicher are from Cincinnati. They started as adversaries in that city’s violent police crisis years ago. Today they’re partners, helping other cities work with the DOJ to make big changes in their police forces. Call them the Odd Couple: Greenwood was an ACLU lawyer who sued the Cincinnati police 19 times, and Streicher was the police chief.

That gets us to how much the Odd Couple’s legal services will cost the taxpayers. Mayor Berry said the initial contract will probably come in at $75,000 to get started. That’s the limit without City Council approval. A longer term contract will have to be worked out with the Council. Greenwood will be the city’s chief attorney for the DOJ negotiations.

http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S3396974.shtml#.U0ovKcJOVjo

Profiling Rules Said to Give F.B.I. Tactical Leeway

April 9, 2014, WASHINGTON Post: — Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.’s long-awaited revisions to the Justice Department’s racial profiling rules would allow the F.B.I. to continue many, if not all, of the tactics opposed by civil rights groups, such as mapping ethnic populations and using that data to recruit informants and open investigations.
The new rules, which are in draft form, expand the definition of prohibited profiling to include not just race, but religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation. And they increase the standards that agents must meet before considering those factors. But they do not change the way the F.B.I. uses nationality to map neighborhoods, recruit informants, or look for foreign spies, according to several current and former United States officials either involved in the policy revisions or briefed on them.


**APD Independent Review Officer defends work against DOJ report**

April 14, 2014, ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) – The city employee who some have accused of letting APD officers off the hook for misconduct is now defending her work in the face of the Department of Justice investigation.

In its report, the DOJ slammed Albuquerque Police for a lack of oversight and accountability in the department and outside of it. The Feds say the city’s Independent Review Office has contributed to APD’s pattern of excessive force.

The Independent Review Officer, Robin Hammer told us she’s done her job and disagrees with some of what the Feds had to say.

http://krqe.com/2014/04/14/apd-independent-review-officer-defends-work-against-doj-report/

**East Haven police may soon wear cameras**

April 15, 2014, EAST HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — East Haven police could soon be wearing cameras as part of a federal consent decree requiring changes to prevent bias.

http://wtnh.com/2014/04/15/east-haven-police-may-soon-wear-cameras/

**DOJ condemns threats against police officers**

April 15, 2014, ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) – The Justice Department is condemning threats of violence against Albuquerque police officers.

Some readers who picked up a copy of the Albuquerque journal over the weekend found a flyer inside that reads “save a life, kill a cop.” The flyers were on light poles and inside newspaper stands near the UNM campus. The journal is investigating how the fliers got in their papers.

Last week, the DOJ released the findings of its investigation into a string of police shootings since 2010. The majority of which were found to violate constitutional rights. The DOJ is encouraging the community to work with them, APD and the city to reform the department.
DOJ seeks public input reference Albuquerque PD Investigation

April 17, 2014, KOAT TV: As part of the DOJ investigation process, they will hold community meeting the week of April 28 in Albuquerque. At the meeting, DOJ representatives will meet with individuals and organizations who broadly represent the community's concerns, including advocacy organizations, civic groups, City officials, victims, and police officers and their union.

Attorney General Eric Holder Remarks at the 2014 Police Executive Research Forum Regarding Narcan to address Heroin issue

April 16, 2014, DOJ News Release: Eric Holders addresses PERF and calls on all first responders – including state and local law enforcement agencies – to train and equip their men and women on the front lines to use the overdose-reversal drug known as naloxone. When administered in a timely manner, naloxone – also known as narcan – can restore breathing to someone experiencing a heroin or opioid overdose. This critical tool can save lives. To date, a total of 17 states and the District of Columbia have taken steps to increase access to naloxone, resulting in over 10,000 overdose reversals since 2001. And I urge state policymakers and local leaders throughout the nation to take additional steps to increase the availability of naloxone among first responders – so we can provide lifesaving aid to more and more of those who need it.

Police Plot Ways to Get More Addicts Into Treatment

April 17, 2014, Crime Report: An increase in heroin overdose deaths and the legalization of marijuana in some places prompted many of the nation's police leaders to gather in Washington, D.C., yesterday for a "national summit" to discuss what the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the event's organizer, termed a "fundamental shift" in thinking about drugs in the U.S. and its impact on policing.

"The country hasn't woken up" to the changes, partly because much of the national data on drug abuse are so out of date, said PERF executive director Chuck Wexler.

In an effort to fill some of the research gap, PERF took its own survey of 628 law enforcement organizations. One result, as noted yesterday in The Crime Report, was that even though marijuana and methamphetamine account for more arrests, heroin led the pack among responders as the most "problematic" illegal drug these days, with 36 percent of the vote.

The increase in heroin overdose deaths and the legalization of marijuana in some places prompted many of the nation's police
Texas Could Get Millions for "Active Shooter" Training

WASHINGTON — A law enforcement training center based at Texas State University in San Marcos may receive millions of federal dollars to support programs that train officers how to handle situations like the recent Fort Hood shooting.

U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder on Tuesday cited the recent tragedy at Fort Hood as he asked Congress to authorize a combined $15 million for “active shooter response training” and other officer safety initiatives.

“In the face of this urgent and growing threat — when the lives of innocent people are at stake — those who stand on the front lines need our full and unwavering support,” Holder said.

Texas State University’s Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center is the national leader for active shooter training programs funded by the Department of Justice. It has trained more than 50,000 officers nationwide in the past decade, using more than $30 million in state and federal grant money, according to the center.

Justice Department prepares for clemency requests from thousands of inmates

April 21, 2014, Washington Post: The Obama administration is beginning an aggressive new effort to foster equity in criminal sentencing by considering clemency requests from as many as thousands of federal inmates serving time for drug offenses, officials said Monday.

The initiative, which amounts to an unprecedented campaign to free nonviolent offenders, will begin immediately and continue over the next two years, officials said. The Justice Department said it expects to reassign dozens of lawyers to its understaffed pardons office to handle the requests from inmates.

Best Practices Guide for Video Evidence

April 22, 2014, US DOJ: Responding to this need from the field, the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global), supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, is proud to release a new product designed for chiefs, sheriffs, and line officers titled Video Evidence: A Law Enforcement Guide to Resources and Best Practices. This resource is designed to provide answers to straightforward questions that law enforcement officers, or the
agencies they represent, may have regarding properly securing, collecting, storing, and analyzing video, as well as to provide sources for training.

https://it.ojp.gov/videoresources

**A bloody Easter in Chicago ushers in new federal crime unit**

April 21, 2014, MSNBC: The U.S. Attorney’s Office announced Monday that it will step up its efforts to diminish violent crime in the city, in the form of a specialized new unit staffed by more than a dozen prosecutors tasked with using federal law as a crime-fighting weapon.

http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/spike-violent-crime-triggers-crackdown

**Attorney General Holder: Justice Dept. to Collect Data on Stops, Arrests as Part of Effort to Curb Racial Bias in Criminal Justice System**

April 28, 2014, DOJ News: The data collection is one part of the Department’s new National Center for Building Community Trust and Justice. It will be funded through $4.75 million in competitively awarded grants. The grant recipients will be named later this year.


**Oversight**

**New Orleans PD Independent Police Monitor releases 2013 report**

April 1, 2014: Among the highlights of independent monitor Susan Hutson's report:

--- NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau received 951 complaints against police personnel, a decrease of 19.1 percent from the 1,176 complaints reported in 2012. Only 11.77 percent of those 2013 complaints were "sustained," where the allegations against the officer were considered proven.

--- In 2013, seven NOPD employees resigned while under investigation, and six others were dismissed. Most of the dismissed officers were terminated for violation of "moral conduct policies."

--- The Independent Monitor's office received five complaints of racial profiling, and 32 complaints of retaliation, including seven from officers reporting intra-departmental retaliation.

--- There were 17 "critical incidents" logged in 2013, including 13 in which an officer fired his/her weapon.

--- Two suspects died in NOPD custody, while four officers and five suspects sustained injuries in "critical incidents," defined as those involving the most serious use of force.
-- NOPD statistics showed African-American men had force used against them nearly six times more often than against white men or African-American women.

-- One NOPD officer was killed and four others were shot in the line of duty during 2013.

Link to report:


**Police Review Board disbanded**

April 1, 2014, Coral Daily Breeze: Even members of the Civilian Police Review Board were split on the board’s value on overseeing the Cape Coral Police Department, if not slightly weighted toward being discontinued. Cape Coral City Council agreed and unanimously voted Monday night to dissolve the six-member board.


**Get Seattle police discipline into the open, Seattle Office of Professional Accountability**

April 4, 2014, Seattle PI: The Seattle Police Department needs to open up, shed sunlight and leave detailed, computerized footprints on cases of officer discipline, according to a sharply worded new report by the auditor to the SPD’s Office of Professional Accountability.


Link to Report:
http://www.seattle.gov/police/OPA/Docs/Auditor/OPA_Auditor_Special_review_SPD_disciplinary_procedures_April_2014.pdf

**BC Police Commission Report**

April 4, 2014, Police Commission report from British Columbia which may be of interest to you. The report makes heavy use of charts, graphs and has a nice look. Lt. Dan.


**Who is policing the Memphis Police Department?**

April 7, 2014, MEMPHIS, TN - (WMC-TV) - The city says police officers may soon get some form of sensitivity training and also address the issue of citizens videoing officers with cell phone cameras.
But the breadth of civilian oversight of Memphis Police Department is the crux of the issue.

"Without civilian oversight of law enforcement it's just the police policing the police, and we all know how that works. It doesn't, clearly," said Paul Garner of HOPE.

A coalition of 12 community organizations called Memphis United is asking city hall for a civilian law enforcement review board in the wake of three incidents involving officers, including one last October on South Main that shut down a rap cypher on South Main


Arpaio Ready to Accept Racial Profiling Ruling: Documents

April 14, 2014, NBC News: Attorneys for Maricopa County submitted a draft "corrective statement" (PDF) in U.S. District Court in Phoenix acknowledging that the judge had found constitutional violations and stipulating that Joe Arpaio, the county's swaggering sheriff for more than 20 years, wouldn't appeal some of the findings.

But beyond acknowledging the ruling, the legal filing goes further: It states that while the sheriff's office will continue its appeal of Snow's ruling finding racial profiling in traffic stops in general, "we are not appealing the Court's finding that that MCSO violated the constitutional rights of Latinos during saturation patrols" — in which officers flood a targeted geographic area in a concentrated law enforcement operation.

Moreover, even if the department wins its larger appeal, the finding that Maricopa deputies racially profiled Latinos in the targeted stops "will not be altered," the statement stipulates.


Civilians say they can’t ‘continue to pretend’ they have power over Albuquerque police

April 17, 2014, RT: Half of the commission that conducts oversight of the Albuquerque, New Mexico Police Department has resigned in protest follow a scathing report from the United States Department of Justice.

Oversight commission members Jennifer Barela, Jonathan Siegel and Richard Shine sent letters of resignation to Albuquerque, NM Mayor Richard Berry on Tuesday, leaving just three members of the nine-person panel to assess the police department's actions. Prior to Tuesday, only six people held seats on the Police Oversight Commission, or POC.

Tuesday's resignations were announced less than a week after the Justice Dept. accused the APD of what it determined to be excessive abuse force and a culture of abuse and aggression. According to the DOJ's findings, Albuquerque police have shot 37 men since 2010, killing 23.

Arpaio told to obey ruling in profile case

April 17, 2014, Business Week: Joe Arpaio, the sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, who was found to have violated the constitutional rights of Latinos, was told by a federal judge to stop misinforming his deputies about the court’s rulings.

U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow today directed the sheriff, whose district includes Phoenix, to provide his deputies with a summary of the judge’s order forbidding the department from detaining Latino drivers and passengers only on the suspicion they are undocumented immigrants or to use race or Latino ancestry as a reason to stop a vehicle.


Oakland police overseer says department showing improvement in complying with reforms

April 29, 2014, OAKLAND -- Oakland police have made strides in reporting misconduct within the department and investigating witness retaliation claims, but needs better reviewing of excessive force complaints, according to the latest report from a federal monitor overseeing reforms.

Oakland agreed to a court-sanctioned reform effort in 2003. Reform tasks -- whittled down over time from 51 to 22 -- are designed to help the department improve accountability and prevent discriminatory policing.


Miami’s civilian police review board in turmoil

April 29, 2014, Miami Herald: The Civilian Investigative Panel, established with much promise in 2002 to review questionable police action, has deteriorated into infighting and accusations.


Technology

Zero Offers Three Day Evaluation For Law Enforcement Agencies

April 1, 2014, US Rider News: Zero Motorcycles, the global leader in the electric motorcycle industry, today announced a new program to support law enforcement agencies. In response to growing interest and demand from police departments, Zero is offering 100% electric patrol motorcycles for a 3-day evaluation period, allowing officers to experience the advantages in their own jurisdictions.

Colorado Town Rejects Plan to Let Residents Shoot Down Drones

April 3, 2014, Govt. Tech: Drones won’t join coyotes as prey on the dun-colored prairie after voters in Deer Trail, Colorado, population 563, turned down a proposal for the town to issue hunting licenses for unmanned aerial vehicles.


Smartphone Software Gives Rochester, Minn., Police Relationship Insight

April 8, 2014, Govt. Tech: The department has been using an IBM-created investigative software for a little more than a year to help understand relationship associations between people they encounter on a relatively regular basis.

How it Works: Every 10 seconds, i2 goes to the local dispatch system to look for any new information entered — things like license plate numbers, names or addresses, discovered from a traffic stop or other contact — and looks for associations with data already on hand.

Then, Heroff said, "the in-house application takes the information and filters it to look for three things: the most problematic and prolific serious offenders, someone who has an active warrant or someone on probation. If any of those three conditions exist within the two degrees of association, then we send out an alert to the officer assigned to the call within 5 seconds.

"What we’re trying to do is provide our officers with a better understanding of the potential criminal environment that they’re walking into,” he said. "That’s a pretty incredible accomplishment. We have some very talented folks here.”


Detroit Police Department to launch pilot program to evaluate body cameras

April 8, 2014, Detroit Free Press: Starting next week, Detroit police officers will test out body cameras, Police Chief James Craig announced today.

The 30-day, no-cost pilot program will launch on Monday, he said. Vince Valentine, with TASER International, which is providing the equipment, said 20 officers from the department’s 2nd Precinct will evaluate the head-mounted and body-mounted cameras.


5 drone technologies for police

April 10, 2014, Police One News: The commercialization of unmanned aerial aircrafts is leading to innovative, off the shelf tools for police applications.

PRIVACY AN ISSUE WITH POLICE BODY CAMERAS

April 13, 2014, SAN DIEGO UT: — San Diego’s police chief wants 300 officers outfitted with body cameras by July, a move she hopes will help restore waning public trust in the department.

But how and when will the cameras be used? Who can view the footage? Will people’s privacy rights be protected?


Ohio police force now wearing body cameras with grant funds

April 12, 2014, PortClintonNewsHerald: Starting this week, Lancaster Police Department patrol officers were outfitted with Taser Axon body cameras, which will record all the officers’ interactions with the public using video and sound. The department started testing the body cameras this past summer with a handful of officers. Going forward, all of the city’s 40 patrol officers will use them.

“The cost to put a camera in the cruiser is about $5,000,” Pillar said. “These (body cameras) cost us $299, and it was all done with grant money.”

http://www.portclintonnewsherald.com/article/20140411/NEWS01/304110011/Ohio-police-force-now-wearing-body-cameras

San Antonio PD purchases two new helicopters

April 14, 2104: My SAN ANTONIO: Two new police helicopters soared Monday into the morning air. “These aircraft have been designed and equipped with the latest technology and equipment that will enhance our enforcement capabilities in the sky,” said William McManus, chief of the San Antonio Police Department.

Police and city officials Monday unveiled the new Eurocopter EC120s, which cost about $5 million, said City Manager Sheryl Sculley. They will replace Schweizer helicopters that the city is selling.


How real-time crime center technologies are force multipliers

April 15, 2014, Police One: New technologies promise to connect disparate systems for improved situational awareness.

Integration of voice, video, and data changes everything. Today, data is available and often streaming into public safety and government agencies from virtually everywhere — smartphones, social media, sensors, alarms, as well as fixed and wireless video cameras.
This abundance of information comes with an enormous challenge: how to capture, correlate, and share it in real-time to make it actionable. Only then can public safety really utilize it to make faster, smarter and safer decisions.

This growing need has fueled the development of Real-Time Crime Centers (RTCC) to more effectively manage voice, video and data inputs and translate them into the most critical intelligence to distribute directly to law enforcement officers for a more proactive response.


**One Year After Approval, Pittsburgh Gunshot Detection System Remains Inactive**

*April 15, 2014, Govt. Tech:* Nearly a year since Pittsburgh City Council agreed to buy a gunshot detection system to combat crime in violent neighborhoods, it has yet to be activated, and public safety officials say they aren't sure how soon that could change.

City council authorized $1 million to buy and integrate video surveillance cameras with gunshot detection equipment. The delay has been blamed on the change in mayoral administrations.


**As Cyberthreats Get Stronger, People and Networking Are Key to Survival**

Don’t put technology first, an expert warns; get the right people, and make sure they're trained and skilled in knowing what to look for.

The major groups using computer technology for the wrong reasons are; the criminal element, nation-states (other countries or groups trying to steal data), activists and insider elements.

“Today it is not just stealing information, it’s become destructive,” Harrington said. He related how in one instance cybercriminals had encoded the medical records at a hospital, then contacted the hospital demanding a ransom to remove the encoding.

“This was a threat to the life of patients, surgeries delayed, patients moved to other hospitals,” Harrington said. It turned out an information technology employee at the hospital hadn’t gotten a raise he thought he deserved and took revenge on his employer.

“Don’t put technology first. You can buy all the latest technology, but if you don’t have the right people to use it, it is a waste of money. Get the right people, trained, skilled in knowing what to look for in potential problems,” Harrington said.

FBI facial recognition database poses threat to privacy, group says

April 17, 2014, Fox News: New information on the construction of the Next Generation Identification (NGI) database was released in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), which describes itself as a nonprofit organization that defends civil liberties in the digital world.

In the past, the FBI never linked criminal and non-criminal fingerprint databases. The NGI will search every image in the database, whether criminal or not. The FBI says that non-criminal individuals identified in the process will be listed as an investigative lead.


Hackers Lurking in Vents and Soda Machines

April 7, 2014, New York Times: SAN FRANCISCO — They came in through the Chinese takeout menu. Unable to breach the computer network at a big oil company, hackers infected with malware the online menu of a Chinese restaurant that was popular with employees. When the workers browsed the menu, they inadvertently downloaded code that gave the attackers a foothold in the business’s vast computer network.

The situation has grown increasingly complex and urgent as countless third parties are granted remote access to corporate systems. This access comes through software controlling all kinds of services a company needs: heating, ventilation and air-conditioning; billing, expense and human-resources management systems; graphics and data analytics functions; health insurance providers; and even vending machines.


Smartphone 'Kill Switches' on the Way

April 16, Govt. Tech: The antitheft tool will let users remotely erase their personal data and render phones inoperable if they are lost or stolen, according to a wireless-industry trade group.

In an abrupt about-face, the wireless industry said Tuesday that smartphones will offer optional, reversible "kill switches" starting next year as a way to deter thieves.

The antitheft tool will let users remotely erase their personal data and render phones inoperable if they are lost or stolen, according to CTIA, a wireless-industry trade group. If a phone is recovered, the owner will be able to return it to working condition and restore the wiped data.

FirstNet Explained

April 17, 2014, Govt. Tech: FirstNet, the proposed national broadband public safety network, is big, expensive and complicated. Here are a few basic things you need to know.

First Responder Network Authority or FirstNet in a nutshell: a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications. On Feb. 22, 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act was signed into law, creating FirstNet with the mission to build, operate and maintain a national wireless broadband, radio access network (RAN) for public safety. The goal is to put an end to the interoperability and communications challenges that have occurred during exceptional and complex disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and terrorist attacks. Here are some of the key points about FirstNet:


OKC Police Department Upgrading Criminal Database

April 22, 2014, News9: The system costs around $660,000 with around half being paid with a grant. So far, six departments in the metro have signed on to become part of the new database.


City Parking Enforcement Goes Paperless

April 23, 2014, Govt. Technology: Pittsburgh and other cities are testing a new app that places license plate recognition technology on smartphones. The article states the new smartphone app will generate big savings for large cities because they won't need to purchase dedicated license plate scanning devices or manual entry devices, which typically cost around $3,000 each. It also helps put sophisticated parking enforcement technology within reach of smaller cities by lowering hardware costs, he said. The app is scheduled for a full release this summer.


North Dakota Drone Test Site to Start Operations in May

April 22, 2014, Govt. Tech: “Today, the FAA is granting the first authorization in the United States to allow a test site to start flying unmanned aircraft”. The test site will be run by the Northern Plains Unmanned Air Systems authority and provide a place to research integration of drones into general airspace.


Cyberattacks on the Rise, Money is Main Target

April 22, 2014, Govt. Tech: A new survey of hacking attacks in 2013 found that 511 were some form of espionage, typically from Asia or Eastern Europe. About 65 percent of the successful breaches were motivated by money, while 19 percent were espionage.

Police Turn to Flickr, Pinterest to Return Stolen Goods to Rightful Owners

Several agencies are now using this technology to assist in locating owners of impounded property. Lt. Dan

April 30, 2014, Govt Tech Magazine: Countless articles of stolen property are recovered in police departments around the country and, increasingly, officials use image hosting services to get the property back to their owners rather than auction them off.

A new website launched by the police department in Roseville, Calif., helps victims of theft recover their stolen goods. Launched this April, the website features photos of stolen items like bicycles, computer equipment and jewelry that users can claim by offering serial numbers or a detailed description.

Police say the website was created so more people can get their stolen property back, rather than having it auctioned off online. Stolen property found by the department that goes unclaimed for 90 days is typically sold through PropertyRoom.com, and 50 percent of the proceeds go back to the department. The funds the department receives are insignificant, so they might as well try harder to get the property back into the hands of its owners, a department spokesperson said, the Sacramento Bee reported.


White House Issues Recommendations for Detroit to Improve Outdated Technology

April 30, 2014, Govt, Tech: The suggestions were among the efforts the White House said it could offer, short of a politically impossible bailout of the largest American city to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

The White House today issued recommendations to Detroit to help the city transform its antiquated computing and information technology systems, a move the Obama administration said will help the city improve basic services and grow economic opportunity.

The report urges the city to:

- Find ways to streamline processes and reduce costs through standardized software, consolidated data centers and computer servers.
- Promote civic innovation by tapping the city’s social and civic entrepreneurs, foundations, and business owners in the effort.
- Make more government data open and freely available online.
- Create a 311 system — a number residents can call for nonemergency service requests from the city, reducing pressure on emergency 911 lines.
- Develop online ways for residents and businesses to apply and pay for business, safety, building and other permits.
- Hire a chief information officer — a step that Mayor Mike Duggan has already completed with his appointment of Beth Niblock as Detroit’s top tech official. She had previously held the same role in Louisville, Ky., and served on the White House team evaluating Detroit.
San Francisco police offer up bait to bike thieves

April 30, 2014, KTVU: The San Francisco Police Department has launched a major push to discourage bike thieves by introducing new bait bicycles loaded with some simple technology.


San Francisco Partners with Nextdoor for Emergency Alerts

April 30, 2014, Govt. Tech: The city first used the platform during a five-alarm fire at a construction site in March.

In March, San Francisco’s Mission Bay neighborhood endured a five-alarm fire that, just before 5 p.m., engulfed a six-story, 80-foot-tall building that was under construction, sending black smoke thousands of feet into the air and eventually burning the building to the ground.

During the blaze, San Francisco officials used its latest emergency tech project to notify residents of the situation and give updates.


Special Interest

Tampa police Chief Jane Castor to stay on a year after May retirement

March 25, 2014, Tampa Bay Times: Castor, 54, would have been required to leave as chief by May 6 because she is a part of the city's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), which sets a non-negotiable retirement day.

But Buckhorn is offering a contract that would extend Castor's tenure until at least May 2015. She would continue to make her $156,000 salary while receiving her pension.


With budget challenges, Consultant advises Memphis they need More Officers

April 1, 2014, WREG Memphis: At Memphis City Hall, there’s another study on efficiency and cost reductions that need to be made within the Memphis Police Department. An external consultant told the Public Safety Committee Tuesday that
MPD is only continuing to operate by paying large amounts of overtime, and that has to change.

http://wreg.com/2014/04/01/as-city-council-talks-budget-cuts-police-say-more-officers-are-needed/

**Jury Hear Claims of SDPD code of silence**

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the San Diego Police Department will have to answer to accusations of a police culture that condones and covers up misconduct as part of a lawsuit involving former Officer Anthony Arevalos.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Michael Anello means the city can potentially be held liable not only for Arevalos’ conduct, but for the department’s culture as a whole.

In a separate ruling last week, Anello said that individual officers cannot be held legally responsible, and he dismissed nine police supervisors from the case, including former Police Chief Bill Lansdowne.

Arevalos, an 18-year veteran, was convicted of eliciting sexual favors from women he stopped.

The lawsuit, filed in 2012 in San Diego federal court by one of his victims, known only as Jane Doe, accuses the Police Department of a widespread practice of allowing officer misconduct.

The lawsuit notes four accusations of sexual misconduct in Arevalos’ past that were brought to the attention of the department. Some of Arevalos’ former colleagues — including a few officers who got into their own trouble with the department — also said in depositions that there is a prevailing culture that encourages officers to look the other way when it comes to misconduct.

The judge concluded that Jane Doe has provided enough evidence for a jury to decide the matter.


**Albuquerque Braces for Anonymous Cyberattack**

April 31, 2014, Govt. Tech: The city of Albuquerque is bracing for a potential cyberattack by an Internet “hacktivist” group that has targeted the police department in response to the March 16 fatal police shooting of James M. Boyd in the Sandia foothills.

But the city’s chief information officer said there was only a “brief, temporary disruption” to the city’s website Saturday night.

“We can't confirm the cause of the interruption,” said CIO Peter Ambs in an emailed statement. “The city of Albuquerque information technology team has been working for several days and continues efforts to ensure there have been no disruption to critical services. We will continue to monitor the situation...”
San Diego PD survey mailed to thousands

April 1, 2014, SANDiego: As a Department of Justice audit is set to start, the San Diego Police Department is undergoing another survey. This one involves the University of Illinois at Chicago and you.

So far more than 8,000 people have been sent letters asking them to take a survey.

The SDPD is asking thousands of people to participate in a survey, designed to collect information that could improve the department.

Congressman Asks FBI to Reduce Backlog of Untested Rape Kits

April 1, 2014, US House of representatives: It is believed that about 500,000 rape kits across America are waiting to be tested. During the March 26 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA17) asked FBI Director James Comey to allow private labs to help process the backlog of rape kits that remain untested. The information learned in these tests is critical in identifying the assailants in these cases. It is estimated that as many as 500,000 rape kits across America are waiting to be tested.

At the hearing, Congressman Honda asked Director Comey to agree to a plan that would have the FBI eliminate the step of “technical review” by the local government labs. He also asked the FBI to allow Alameda County to serve as a pilot project for this plan. The Congressman had previously made this request in a letter written with Representatives Eric Swalwell and Barbara Lee.

Removing the “technical review” step in the rape kit process would significantly increase the number of kits that can be tested. A private lab, certified to work with the FBI and other government labs, can examine a minimum of 100 rape kits a month.

Current procedures require the government lab to then perform a technical review of the testing of the private lab. In Alameda County, the government lab can only do a technical review of 4 or 5 cases a month. The Congressman’s plan would require that the government lab only perform spot checks to ensure the private lab’s work met its standards.

ST. LOUIS PROGRAM HELPS POLICE AND PUBLIC SMOOTH OVER MINOR CONFLICTS

April 1, 2014, ST. LOUIS Post Dispatch: If you think a city cop was rude, cursed at you or treated you unfairly, you might have a chance to hammer out your differences in a face-to-face chat.
St. Louis police are running a pilot program aimed at resolving bitter but relatively minor conflicts between citizens and officers. So far, the department has resolved 15 complaints through mediation since the program started in October 2011, said Lt. Scott Gardner, an internal affairs commander.


**LAPD Chief would like a second term**

April 3, 2014, LA Times: Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Police Commission are about to begin an extensive review of LAPD Chief Charlie Beck’s performance to decide whether to offer him a second five-year term.

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-in-lapd-beck-second-term-20140403,0,3675791.story#axzz2xtObjbCW

**Ex-officer admits stealing more than $250,000 from college parking machines**

The veteran college police officer came under suspicion when his colleagues reported seeing him with bundles of $1 and $5 bills, as well as collecting money from the machines at odd hours, the newspaper reported. Holzworth was arrested in November 2012 after detectives followed him with a GPS tracking device, according to the Press Democrat.

In all, Holzworth admitted to stealing $287,000 from the machines but will be sentenced to no more than four years in state prison as part of the plea agreement, KTVU and Press Democrat reported.

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-in-college-meter-thefts-20140403,0,1393573.story#axzz2xtObjbCW

**Pittsburgh’s mayor wants to develop a policy to discipline police officers who lose civil cases**

April 1, 2014, Post Gazette: In the wake of a split verdict in the civil case filed by Jordan Miles against three police officers, Mayor Bill Peduto said Tuesday he wants to create a policy to discipline officers who are found in the wrong in civil trials and said that he would not rule out discipline for the two officers who remain with the city.

But the policy and the prospect of pursuing disciplinary measures four years after the fact drew skepticism in some corners, including from the city’s own solicitor, Lourdes Sanchez-Ridge.

NM City still reeling from anti-police cyberattack

April 4, 2014, Police One: The city of Albuquerque was still working Wednesday to recover from the “anonymous” cyberattack launched over the weekend as part of a police protest. The city’s website for accepting online payments — including payments for parking tickets — remained down, and there were delays in payments to vendors earlier in the week. "There was significant disruption," Albuquerque’s chief administrative officer, Rob Perry, said Wednesday in an interview.


Oakland police reformer a waste of resources, leaders say

April 4, 2014, SF Gate: Despite paying millions of dollars to court-appointed consultants over the past five years, Oakland has been unable to meet the terms of a court settlement stemming from a decade-old police abuse scandal.

By next year, Oakland will have paid two consultants $4.6 million to help the Police Department meet the remaining two dozen reforms outlined in the court agreement.

But while some city leaders believe Oakland is only a year away from meeting its goals, others are concerned the city is stuck in a hopeless, expensive, bureaucratic grind that takes valuable resources away from crime fighting.


More law enforcement agencies turning to electronic monitoring- Ankle Bracelets

April 5, 2014, TriCities.com: Article discusses the costs savings associated with the use of these devices. Lt. Dan


South Dakota explores digital vouchers

Article discusses some of the pros and cons of digitizing expense receipts for costs savings. Lt. Dan


Shots fired in LAPD building, officer injured

April 7, 2014, LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Shots were fired Monday night in the front desk area of a Los Angeles Police Department building in mid-city Los Angeles, police said.
The incident occurred at about 8 p.m. at the LAPD Wilshire Division and West Traffic division office in the 4800 block of Venice Boulevard. The suspect walked into the lobby and told two officers manning the front desk "he had a complaint."

The man opened fire on the officers four times, officials said. The officers returned fire and the suspect was shot, police said. He was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in critical condition.

One of the officers, likely saved by a bullet-proof vest, was also hit and taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center with minor injuries.


**Police Confront Rising Number of Mentally Ill Suspects**

April 1, 2014, New York Times: The March 16 shooting, captured in a video taken with an officer's helmet camera and released by the Albuquerque Police Department, has stirred protests and some violence in Albuquerque and prompted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to begin an inquiry into the death. But it has also focused attention on the growing number of people with severe mental disorders who, in the absence of adequate mental health services, are coming in contact with the criminal justice system, sometimes with deadly consequences.


**Cincinnati PD use lateral hires to increase number of officers to reorganize for new violence reduction plan**

April 4, 2014, CINCINNATI WCPO: -- Sixty-nine new police officers stand ready to join the force as the police department gears up to crack down on violent crime.

The new additions -- the first phase in a violence reduction plan announced earlier this year by Mayor John Cranley and Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell -- bring an average of nine years experience to the force and free up enough cops to create a new gang unit.

The key to the influx of new members to the ranks was the approval of lateral transfer or the hiring away of cops from other agencies. In the two weeks after the lateral transfer job was posted in February, interest in the 20 to 25 available spots ballooned.


**Legal pot hasn't stopped Colo. black market**

April 4, 2014, DENVER (AP) — A 25-year-old is shot dead trying to sell marijuana the old-fashioned, illegal way. Two men from Texas set up a warehouse to grow more than they would ever need. And three people buying pot in a grocery store parking lot are robbed at gunpoint.
While no one expected the state's first-in-the-nation recreational sales would eliminate the need for dangerous underground sales overnight, the violence has raised concerns among police, prosecutors and pot advocates that a black market for marijuana is alive and well in Colorado.


16 Philly police, firefighters earned more than $400,000 in OT since '09

April 7, 2014, Philly Com: The top 25 OT earners citywide for that period were all police officers or firefighters, with homicide Detective Levi Morton’s $498,730 topping the list for the five-year period. Thirteen other police officers, as well as two firefighters, earned more than $400,000 in overtime alone in the past five years.


U.S. Department of Justice to announce results of civil investigation

April 7, 2014, KOAT: Results will be announced Thursday at 10 a.m. during a press conference held at the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico’s office in Albuquerque.


3 Albuquerque PD substations vandalized overnight

April 8, 2014, KOAT7TV: The substations targeted were at Central and Rio Grande, Central and Girard and Tramway and Montgomery


Dallas PD Wants to Use the Feds' Cache of Private Financial Info to Take Down Drug Dealers

April 9, 2014, Dallas Observer: Dallas Police Chief David Brown didn't think his proposal to secure access to a federal database of private banking and financial information would be controversial. It sailed through the City Council's Public Safety Committee unopposed last week. Then again, that committee didn't have City Councilman Lee Kleinman.

"'The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated,'" Kleinman began, reading from a copy of the U.S. Constitution at this morning's meeting of the City Council.

"I feel very strongly that this item is a violation of that," Kleinman continued. "I'm not in favor of having a law enforcement authority searching through financial records."
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Brown said that civil liberties concerns are unwarranted. The database DPD is seeking permission to access -- the Treasury Department Financial Crimes Enforcement Network -- has been providing law enforcement with information on suspicious transactions (e.g. those involving $10,000 or more) since 1990, though only after they prove probable cause and obtain a warrant. DPD already uses information from the database when it partners with the feds on high-level drug operations.


Albuquerque PD names new deputy chief to oversee reforms

April 9, 2014, Police One: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Albuquerque police chief Gorden Eden has named a retired commander as the department's newly created deputy chief who will oversee the reforms announced by the Department of Justice, crisis intervention training for officers and police training and Internal Affairs.

Robert Huntsman will soon serve as the department's fourth deputy chief, a position announced last week as a way to help implement findings of a comprehensive DOJ investigation into APD and as a "proactive" method of improving officer training and accountability.


Portland city manager’s $221 million budget proposes more police, social service workers and chefs

April 7, 2104: PORTLAND, Maine — Portland City Manager Mark Rees is proposing a $220.9 million municipal budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, a spending plan which would raise property taxes by $84 on the average Portland homeowner if approved.


Smart car-tipping spree: San Francisco police say 4 cars flipped in early-morning incidents

I've heard of cow tipping, but smart car-tipping is something new to me. Check out the video/photos. If not kept in check this could be a trend leading to motorcycle tipping and Beatle (VW) tipping, who knows! Lt. Dan

April 7, 2014,AP: SAN FRANCISCO - Police in San Francisco are investigating why four Smart cars were flipped over during an apparent early-morning vandalism spree.

Kansas City Kansas Police suspends chase policy after girl, 8, dies in crash

April 10, 2014: KNBC: Incident began as normal traffic stop


New Seattle police chief will be chosen in mid-May

April 11, 2014, Seattle PI: The city is on track to see appointment of a new Seattle police chief in mid-May, according to a timetable released Friday by Mayor Ed Murray, who has been much criticized for his selection of interim leadership at the SPD.


Investigate the Houston Police Department

April 10, 2014, Houston Chronicle - Op-Ed: Why is the Houston Police Department so prone to mismanagement? This is the question that City Hall needs to answer. It is time for a third-party investigator to take a look at HPD and determine exactly where management breaks down and provide solutions.

Years of controversy at HPD's crime lab led to an independent report by forensics expert Michael Bromwich, which helped set the lab on the right track. The rest of HPD needs to take the same medicine.

It seems like a month can’t go by without HPD landing itself in another controversy. There were two HPD lieutenants who retired, with full benefits, amid allegations of sexual harassment. The crime lab faces an internal investigation after reports that a former employee did not follow proper procedures over the last two years. This comes on the tail of untested evidence, faked results, inaccurate fingerprinting and contaminated blood tests. We thought those days were over.


Dallas Police allowed to access federal banking records for investigations

April 9, 2014: DALLAS (CBSDFW.COM) - A controversial vote Wednesday by the Dallas City Council decided, nearly unanimously, to give police the power to search individuals’ bank accounts if they believe someone is involved in significant criminal activity.

Through a memorandum of understanding, it allowed the DPD to be party to the U.S. Treasury Departments' Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, where banks all over the country must report raw information of suspicious bank activities. Some transactions are mere coincidence, others can reveal a trail of what Police Chief David Brown calls, “ill-gotten gains.”
Philadelphia police having trouble recruiting new officers

April 14, 2014, Philadelphia Business Journal: Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said that the department is having serious trouble recruiting people to become police officers. In fact, they've had to lower the recruitment age from 21 to 19 so people choose the police before falling into another career.


New York Drops Unit That Spied on Muslims

April 15, 2014, New York Times: The New York Police Department has abandoned a secretive program that dispatched plainclothes detectives into Muslim neighborhoods to eavesdrop on conversations and built detailed files on where people ate, prayed and shopped, the department said.

The decision by the nation’s largest police force to shutter the controversial surveillance program represents the first sign that William J. Bratton, the department’s new commissioner, is backing away from some of the post-9/11 intelligence-gathering practices of his predecessor. The Police Department's tactics, which are the subject of two federal lawsuits, drew criticism from civil rights groups and a senior official with the Federal Bureau of Investigation who said they harmed national security by sowing mistrust for law enforcement in Muslim communities.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/16/nyregion/police-unit-that-spied-on-muslims-is-disbanded.html?_r=0

Retired police, firefighters reach deal with Detroit

April 15, 2014, AP: DETROIT — The City of Detroit reached a deal Tuesday with a retired police and firefighters group to preserve current pensions, according to mediators.

The Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association agreed to support a deal that would involve not cutting monthly pension checks and keeping almost half of annual cost-of-living increases, Rosen said in a statement. The current cost-of-living adjustment is 2.25%.


Utah Police Dept. threatens to sue another PD patch design

I haven’t seen this before, hope this isn’t a trend. Not sure this will make for very good public perception regarding what police departments are spending their time on. I’ve seen a number of patches that look very similar. Lt. Dan
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April 15, 2014, Fox 13: The Lone Peak Police Department is threatening to sue the Roy Police Department for copyright infringement, accusing Roy PD of stealing its uniform patch design.

http://fox13now.com/2014/04/14/lone-peak-pd-threatens-to-sue-roy-pd-over-uniform-patch-design/

LA Budget to combine PD and Fire 911

Although it may seem like a good approach on paper, this will be a challenge, the last paragraph of the article alludes to the failure of this approach in New York City. Lt. Dan.

April 15, 2104, Govt. Tech: The revamped dispatch operation would unify separate police and fire emergency call centers and gradually replace some uniformed firefighters with lower-paid civilian phone operators.

Currently, 911 calls for fires and medical emergencies are first answered by civilian call takers at an LAPD facility and then passed on to a separate LAFD facility downtown. There, sworn firefighters working round-the-clock shifts — some of them licensed paramedics — interview callers and decide which rescuers to send.

"Seconds matter when people call 911, and eliminating that extra step of a transfer can make a difference," said Yusef Robb, a spokesman for the mayor. "The ultimate goal is to have cross-trained personnel who can handle a fire call, a police call, a medical emergency or any sort of 911 call."

The specifics of the staffing changes have to be worked out, Robb said. But the expectation is that some firefighters and paramedics would remain in the consolidated call center to handle the most severe medical emergencies.

New York City struggled with a similar effort to combine dispatch centers. It took eight years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars to move police, fire and medical call takers to a single location, only to have a city review conclude that the departments still operated separately and often asked duplicative questions.


LA Sheriff’s to revisit use-of-force policy after lawsuit ruling

In light of the court decision referred to in this article it appears that LASD is going to follow suite with LAPD, who recently revised their use of force policy. Tactics leading up the shooting are going to be considered in the totality of circumstances on shootings, not just the officers’ mental state of, “in fear for their life”, at the time of the shooting. Although this is a California State court ruling it will probably eventually affect litigation in other states. Agencies may want to review their training / policies and insure these issues are addressed. One of the most frequent concerns is officers standing in front of suspect vehicles and then shooting at them when they drive towards them. Not sure how much longer this is going to pass the headlines test. A number of agencies are addressing this in their UOF policies. Lt. Dan.
April 15, 2014, LA Times: Los Angeles County sheriff's officials are revisiting the department's policy governing when and how deputies can use physical force, in light of a court ruling last year that officers can be held liable even for actions that led up to a shooting.

The daughter of Shane Hayes, a mentally ill man who was shot and killed in his home by San Diego County sheriff's deputies after brandishing a knife, filed a wrongful death suit against the department. She argued that the deputies provoked the confrontation that led to the shooting.

The California Supreme Court ruled last August that officers' "tactical conduct and decisions preceding the use of deadly force are relevant considerations" in deciding whether the officers were negligent in a deadly force case.

The Los Angeles Police Commission revised its rules governing use of force cases in February to say that a shooting can be found in violation of the department's deadly force policy if an officer's mishandling of the situation led to the shooting. Previously, the commission had generally focused on whether the officer was threatened immediately before he shot his gun.

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sheriff-force-policy-20140415,0,2175407.story#axzz2z4PhlnDk

Top Baltimore PD commander resigns, "personal reasons" cited

April 16, 2014, Baltimore Sun: A top Baltimore Police commander abruptly resigned Monday, leaving Police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts with several moves to make in order to replenish his top ranks.

Lt. Col. Clifton McWhite, who was nearing the end of his 19th year on the force, resigned effective immediately on Monday, the department announced in an evening news release. They cited "personal reasons."


LAPD Officers Tamper with Recording Equipment, Apologize to Commission

April 16, 2014, Govt. Tech: Top Los Angeles police officials Tuesday publicly apologized to their civilian bosses for not promptly alerting them that officers had tampered with recording equipment in patrol cars to avoid being monitored.

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck and several top aides promised to monitor the problem more closely and vowed to be better about notifying the five-member police commission about such issues in the future.

Philadelphia Mayor Bans Cooperation Between Law Enforcement & ICE

April 17, 2014, NY Times: Sgt. Ryan Anders was on administrative leave from the department when he broke into Officer Kim Carmack’s home Thursday afternoon and killed her and himself, police said. The department had been concerned about the safety of both officers, the police chief said.

Following through on his previous warnings, the mayor of Philadelphia, Michael Nutter, signed an executive order on Wednesday to prohibit Philadelphia law enforcement from honoring most detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). According to the Philadelphia Inquirer:

About 17 localities, including Miami, San Francisco, Newark, N.J., New Orleans, and New York City, have modified their policies on ICE holds.

But where some apply only to police, Philadelphia’s new rules apply both to its police and prison departments. The order also means the city won’t tell ICE about a prisoner’s pending release unless the person was convicted of a violent felony and ICE’s request is supported by a warrant from a judge.

http://immigrationreform.com/2014/04/18/philadelphia-mayor-bans-cooperation-between-law-enforcement-ice/

Chicago crime stats police claim are 'progress' is an illusion

April 18, 2014, Fox News: An investigation published by Chicago Magazine claims that the “progress” is an illusion. The article says that under pressure from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago cops have been reclassifying murders and violent crimes. The result is a nearly unprecedented drop in numbers.

Chief McCarthy responded that the article is “patently false” and he criticized the near total reliance on anonymous sources. “I’m troubled by it because it hurts our credibility while we’re trying to build our credibility,” he said.


Lawsuit filed over traffic stop caught on police video

Follow up on article previously posted on our site on the 15th. Lt. Dan


Follow up on article we posted April 17, 2014, Chicago Tribune: A federal lawsuit on Thursday accused five police officers from Chicago and Glenview of conspiring to lie under oath at a court hearing late last month, only to be caught by a judge after a video taken from a squad car contradicted their testimony.
Dallas police chief suspends recruit training for field sobriety tests

April 18, 2014, Dallas News: The Dallas Police Department will suspend field sobriety test classes for recruits pending a review of whether the training meets national guidelines, Chief David Brown announced Thursday.


Memphis police say indictments being returned thanks to tested rape kits

April 16, 2014, Commercial Appeal: The multiagency team tasked with eliminating the Memphis Police Department’s staggering backlog of untested sexual assault kits painted an optimistic, albeit complex, picture of its progress.


State Troopers Deployed in Newark to Combat Violent Crime

April 17, 2014, Patch.com: Initiative began Wednesday to reduce shootings and to aggressively prosecute gang members and repeat offenders. Acting Attorney General John Hoffman committed $2.2 million in state funds, federal Department of Justice grants and criminal forfeiture funds to support the program.


San Diego Police Chief says Professional Standards Unit is coming back to department

April 19, 2014, ABC News: SAN DIEGO - When Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman took over the San Diego Police Department in February, the first order of business was to get the house she would be heading in order.

"Yes, the Professional Standards Unit is coming back and maybe it is already back and I'm going to be a little mysterious about that," she said.

In 2003, her predecessor former chief William Lansdowne quietly disbanded what was known as the Professional Standards Unit, a group of seven officers investigating their own, proactively searching for internal misconduct.

Husband, wife — both officers — dead in murder-suicide: police

April 20, 2014, Chicago Sun Times: Javier Acevedo served 25 years as a Cook County Sheriff’s correctional officer, and Veronica Acevedo served 18 years with the Chicago Police Department, authorities said.

But early Sunday morning, the couple were found dead in their Garfield Ridge home on the Southwest Side in what police said appeared to be a murder-suicide. The correctional officer apparently shot his wife before shooting himself, Cook County Sheriff’s spokeswoman Cara Smith said.


Oakland auditor sounds pension alarm

April 20, 2104, Contra Costa Times: OAKLAND -- Pension costs have more than doubled over the past decade, leaving Oakland with fewer police officers, more potholes and a growing threat of insolvency, City Auditor Courtney Ruby warned in a report released Sunday.

Oakland's payments to the state pension system jumped from $37 million in 2003 to $89 million in 2012, the report found.


Police in Wisconsin brace for change in state law for UOF protocol regarding incidents resulting death

April 20, 2014, MADISON, Wis. (AP) -- A bill revamping officer-involved death investigations would mean a culture shift for Wisconsin's largest police departments.

The measure would require every department to adopt policies requiring an investigator from a different agency to lead probes into officer-involved deaths. The bill's authors say the measure will fight perceptions that police protect their own.


San Jose police just about stop investigating one another for bad behavior

April 21, 2014, SAN JOSE Mercury News: Even as community complaints against San Jose police officers rise, cops have almost entirely stopped the practice of tipping off their superiors to misbehaving colleagues -- resulting in far fewer officers being punished.

New figures from Chief Larry Esquivel show that compared to a few years ago, the department last year launched 83 percent fewer investigations into police department employees based on evidence submitted by fellow officers. Those complaints are key in helping San Jose determine whether an officer needs to be disciplined or trained, yet
last year only 1 percent of the police force was investigated based on allegations from their colleagues.


Sacramento Police Chief Goes On Patrol In All-Hands Effort To Get More Cops On Streets

April 20, 2014, SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CBS13) - The Sacramento Police Department’s new crime-fighting plan is putting everyone out on the streets, including the chief.

The new all-hands-on-deck policy just started because of the need for more officers on the streets. Sacramento Police Department spokesman Doug Morse says this is something they have never attempted before. “It’s a very exciting time for the Sacramento Police Department,” said Morse.

For the first time everyone in the department will put on a uniform and work patrol. “Basically it’s all available sworn personnel,” said Morse. Morse says everyone must work patrol for one week every month, including Chief Sam Somers who has already hit the streets twice.

http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2014/04/20/sacramento-police-chief-leads-effort-to-get-more-officers-on-patrol/

Dallas Police Department to resume training for field sobriety tests

Story previously posted. Lt. Dan

April 21, 2014, Dallas News: The Dallas Police Department announced Monday night that it was reinstating field sobriety test training for officer recruits after concerns were raised that the exam was more prone to flunking minority recruits than whites.


Police officer on paid leave after tripping students

Another police video gone viral. I don’t usually post these but in the era of social media this constant barrage of police videos erodes public confidence in law enforcement. I have taught officers for years to, “always act as though you are being recorded, because you probably are”. Unfortunately the message does not seem to get through to some, until it is too late. It is also unfortunate that these videos often misrepresent police actions and the outcome of the internal investigation never gets the play (if any) that the viral video does. Lt. Dan

April 22, 2014, Statesman.com: The Georgetown Police Department has placed Officer George Bermudez on paid administrative leave after video surfaced this weekend showing him tripping and pushing students who were rushing onto a field after a soccer game.
Bermudez’s actions were not appropriate measures for a crowd control situation, said agency spokesman Roland Waits. He said the matter has been referred to the internal affairs unit of the Georgetown Police Department.


**NYPD’s twitter outreach results in undesired consequences**

April 22, 2014, NY POST: The NYPD showed it knows a lot more about fighting crime than it does about Twitter when it asked users to post pictures of friendly cops on the Web site — and online trolls responded with a flood of tweets depicting police brutality.

The NYPD’s attempt to court Twitter members blew up in its face on Tuesday, shortly after the department started the Twitter hashtag #myNYPD.

http://nypost.com/2014/04/22/nyps-twitter-outreach-completely-backfired/

**Overseer pushes officials to speed up hiring Oakland Chief**

April 19, 2014, SF Gate: OAKLAND — Oakland’s mayor and city administrator need to stop dragging their feet and hire a new police chief or risk falling behind on reforming the department, according to a progress report released Friday by the court-appointed police overseer.

The overseer, Robert Warshaw, said the city’s stop-and-go, eight-month search for a permanent chief, the sudden departure of the new city administrator and the looming mayoral election have created an atmosphere of indecision and cast doubt among the Police Department rank and file.

Warshaw called on Mayor Jean Quan and City Administrator Fred Blackwell to end their "fragmentary attempts to select a permanent chief" that have "consumed public resources and done little to nurture public confidence in the process."


**Badges, Guns Stolen During LAPD Football Game With San Diego Officers**

April 21, 2014, KTLA5: The thief or thieves struck in the locker room area Saturday, during a game at Bishop Mora Salesian High School at 960 Soto St. between an LAPD team and a San Diego-area team, according to Sgt. Gabriel Lara of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollenbeck Station.

Three handguns, four badges, jewelry and cash were taken from officers’ duffel bags in the locker room area at about 5:30 p.m., LAPD Lt. Andy Neiman said.

A missing rifle scope sparked a raid of a local police department, according to law enforcement sources.

This is an interesting article regarding a police department that did not take the appropriate action when evidence was stolen from their property room. Lt. Dan.

April 22, 2014, NBC: Investigators with the Delaware County District Attorney’s Office searched through the Chester City Police Department headquarters on 160 East 7th Street in Chester early Tuesday afternoon.

A spokesperson with the District Attorney’s Office told NBC10 the officials were searching for possible missing evidence from the building’s evidence room. The officers later left the scene.

According to two law enforcement sources, the raid was related to an alleged incident that occurred last March.

The sources told NBC10's Harry Hairston that an evidence officer with the Chester Police Department discovered that a scope, worth between $1000 and $1300 was missing from a rifle in the evidence room.

The sources claim the officer reported the information to a Chester Police official and was told that the matter would be looked into.

According to the sources, the officer then went to another official a week later after no action was taken. The sources claim that official told the officer he would also look into the matter.

According to the sources, the official allegedly spread the word that whoever took the scope could place it in his unlocked car with no questions asked. The sources claim a top official in the department then walked in with the scope a half hour later.

A police official then stated there would be no further investigation and no reviewing of surveillance video of the evidence room, according to the sources. The sources say someone within the department then contacted the Delaware County District Attorney’s Office which led to Tuesday’s raid.


Albuquerque rocked by latest police shooting

April 22, 2014, USA Today: Another fatal shooting of a suspect by police has rattled the city of Albuquerque, where a string of killings has sparked sometimes violent protests in recent weeks.

An officer was put on administrative leave after shooting Mary Hawkes, 19, who was suspected in an auto theft, Police Chief Gorden Eden said. She is the third person to be killed by an officer in five weeks.
The shooting of Hawkes took place less than two weeks after a U.S. Justice Department investigation of the city's police force found that the department "engages in a pattern or practice of use of excessive force, including deadly force."


Cops: ‘Swatting’ 911 Prank Leads To Massive Police Response In Long Beach, NY

April 22, 2014, CBS NY: A 17-year-old boy who was playing the video game “Call of Duty” inside the house was the apparent victim of the prank, Rincon reported. He had been playing against someone else online, police said.

In the game of Swatting, the losers of the video game get back at the winner by faking an emergency call from the winner’s house, Rincon reported.

“In this … bizarre world of Swatting, you get points for the helicopter, for the police cars, for the SWAT team, for the type of entry,” said Michael Tagney, Long Beach police commissioner. “It’s very sophisticated. Unfortunately, it’s very dangerous.”


Twitter critics take on LAPD after NY police hit on social media

April 24, 2014, LA Times: A Twitter backlash against New York City police has spread to the West Coast with people posting critical comments and photos of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The New York Police Department was hit with a barrage of negative publicity after agency officials urged people to post pictures that praised officers under the hashtag #myNYPD.

On Wednesday, people were using a #myLAPD hashtag to post critical comments and photos of Los Angeles police officers.

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-twitter-critics-mylapd-mynypd-20140423,0,3630971.story#axzz2zsCLtlnKN

Wisconsin Governor signs police custody death bill.

April 24, 2014, Milwaukee – Wisconsin, Journal Sentinel: The new law requires a team of at least two investigators from an outside agency to lead reviews of such deaths.

It requires reports of custody death investigations throughout the state to be publicly released if criminal charges are not filed against the officers involved. Officers also must inform victim’s families of their options to pursue additional reviews via the US Attorney’s office or a state-level John Doe Investigation.

Family of TSA officer killed in LAX shooting files $25-million claim

April 24, 2014, LA Times: The family of a Transportation Security Administration officer slain in a shooting at LAX has filed a claim against the city, alleging the wrongful death of Gerardo Hernandez and seeking damages in excess of $25 million.

The family alleges in the claim that city agencies failed to protect Los Angeles International Airport. The claim says city employees “failed in the performance of their duties which created a dangerous lapse in security” that led to Hernandez's death and delayed medical care to the injured.

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-tsa-officer-claim-20140424,0,1049729.story#axzz30A1MYFme

Former Dallas PD officer indicted in shooting unarmed man

April 24, 2014, MYFOXLA A former Dallas police officer who lost her job after shooting an unarmed man was charged Thursday with aggravated assault.

A grand jury indicted former Officer Amy Wilburn on Thursday.

The indictment stems from an incident that was captured on police dash cam and took place in early Dec. 2013. Three weeks after that incident, Wilburn was fired.


April 27: Four finalists for Seattle police chief named

They are:

- Kathleen O'Toole, who served as Boston police commissioner from 2004 to 2006, and later as chief inspector in reforming the Garda Inspectorate, Ireland’s national police force. She has dealt with controversy, notably the police killing of a young woman named Victoria Snelgrove during riots following the Red Sox’ dramatic 2004 playoff win over the Yankees.
- Frank Milstead, police chief of Mesa, Ariz., since 2010 and a veteran of 25 years’ service with the Phoenix Police Department. He headed the Phoenix Homeland Security Bureau before taking up duties in Mesa. Milstead has, long ago, done stand-up comedy.
- Patrick Melvin, chief of the Salt River Police Department in Arizona. He served previously as the first police chief in Maricopa, Ariz., after spending 21 years with the Phoenix Police Department. He is a former president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.
- Robert Lehner, chief of the Elk Grove, Calif., Police Department. He is a former Eugene, Ore., police chief and as an assistant chief in Tucson, Ariz..

Crime drops with new police force in gritty Camden

April 29, 2014, Journalgazette: CAMDEN, N.J. – Journal Gazette: A year after Camden disbanded its police department and brought in a new one with more officers on the street, reported crime has dropped significantly in a city that still ranks as dangerous by any measure.

http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20140428/NEWS03/140429369/1006/NEWS

Seattle police: New DOJ use of-force policy ‘won’t tie our hands’ this May Day

April 29, 2014, KIROTV: However, this year will mark the first time the SPD’s approximately 1,300 officers have been tested by May Day protestors since the department’s new "use of force" policy went into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

The new policy, mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice, dictates immediate documentation and investigation any time an excessive use of-force complaint is made against an officer.

Sources inside the SPD have expressed concerns to KIRO 7 that any complaint of excessive force by protestors on Thursday would mean that officer would immediately have to leave the streets to fill out the mandatory paperwork, possibly putting the city at risk.

On Tuesday, Assistant Seattle Police Chief Paul McDonagh and Capt. Chris Fowler confirmed the new DOJ regulations will mean any complaints of excessive force will result in mandatory paperwork and investigations, but not until any danger to the citizens of Seattle has passed.


New Mexico police, sheriffs see officer, deputy shortage

April 29, 2014, Las Cruces News: ALBUQUERQUE >> Police departments and sheriffs' offices across New Mexico are battling shortages of officers and deputies amid retirements, low pay, and a lack of qualified applicants.

From Albuquerque police to small rural agencies like the Torrance County Sheriff's office, departments are reporting staffing shortfalls and say it may get worse next year. Officials said the shortages hurt agencies' ability to fight crime, affect some specialized units and often require officers to work many shifts.

"It's a state problem and these staffing shortages get deeper and deeper every year," Stephanie Lopez, president of the Albuquerque Police Officers Association, said. "Pay is not keeping up with the demands of the job."

Dallas PD wants to 'saturate' city with bait cars

April 29, 2014, Police One: DALLAS — In their hunt for an 11th straight year of crime reduction, Dallas police say they're going to need more bait.

Next month, police officials plan to bring a proposal to the City Council to increase the number of bait cars. The cars, usually transformed from frequently stolen vehicles, are equipped with GPS tracking technology that alerts police as soon as the cars or their contents are taken.


As Chicago violence ramps up, so will police overtime

April 29, 2014, Chicago Tribune: The Chicago Police Department has canceled days off on weekends for dozens of cops on tactical, saturation and gun teams in certain high-crime neighborhoods as violence has picked up in recent weeks with the arrival of warmer weather.


Dallas Police Grappling with troubled academy

April 28, 2014, DALLAS (AP) - Dallas police are adding oversight to its troubled training academy, which has faced allegations of lowered test scored and possible racial bias at one of the biggest law enforcement units in Texas.

The Dallas Police Department is creating a new deputy chief position while the academy is under a widening in-house investigation of procedures, the Dallas Morning News reported Sunday (http://bit.ly/1irzQ3J). The new leader, whose new position has not been officially announced, will quickly face many issues.


ST. LOUIS POLICE CHIEF APOLOGIZES FOR CALLING SOME OF HIS OFFICERS 'SLUGS'

April 29, 2014, ST. LOUIS Today: Police Chief Sam Dotson has apologized for labeling some city officers as “slugs” while talking to residents after an aldermanic Public Safety Committee meeting last week at City Hall.

Dotson was responding to residents’ concerns about crime and police response times when a KMOX reporter recorded Dotson telling them, “I’ve got 1,300 employees, 1,300 police officers. I got 20 percent which are high performers. I got 20 percent which are just slugs, and I got the 60 percent in the middle. I’m trying to work on the 20 percent down here that are slugs, but, you know, I’m trying to move everybody along.”
Hawaii House and Senate pass bill ending legal right of police to have sex with prostitutes

Follow up to previous articles posted. LT Dan

HONOLULU — Hawaii lawmakers have passed a bill that will end an unusual exemption in state law that allowed police to have sex with prostitutes.

Police still may solicit sex in the course of their investigations. But the measure (HB 1926) now makes sexual penetration and sadomasochistic abuse by police officers a crime.

Phoenix Police will analyze years of officer involved shootings

April 30, 2014, AZCentral: Phoenix police have begun an unprecedented review of its officer-involved shootings to better understand some of the factors that lead to violent confrontations and to be more transparent with the public.

The effort could also help police avoid any potential scrutiny from the U.S. Department of Justice, which has recently come down on other police departments in the West regarding their use of force.

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS ST. LOUIS POLICE TO CONDUCT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION TRAINING

April 30, 2014, St. Louis Today: ST. LOUIS • A federal judge has ordered St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson and two of his commanders to attend training that would “detect and prevent discrimination” within the department.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry comes eight months after Sgt. David Bonenberger won $620,000 from the department in a reverse racial discrimination suit. Bonenberger, who is white, said he was passed over for a leadership position because of his race.
Law Enforcement Misconduct

ST. LOUIS POLICE INVESTIGATE OFFICERS’ USE OF FORCE IN STRUGGLE WITH MENTALLY ILL MAN

April 2, 2014, ST. LOUIS Post Dispatch: City police are investigating two officers’ use of force in a violent encounter last month with a mentally ill man whose family recorded part of it on video.

Mike Keller, executive director of the Independence Center, which is a “community-based rehabilitation program for adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses,” said he complained to police after seeing the video.


Suburban officer charged in 95-year-old’s death

April 2, 2014, Chicago Tribune: An officer was charged this morning in the police killing of 95-year-old John Wrana, the World War II veteran who was fatally shot with beanbag rounds in his apartment at a south suburban senior facility last year.

The elderly man had refused medical treatment for a urinary tract infection, and reportedly became belligerent. Police who were called to the scene fired a Taser that failed to hit Wrana, and then shot him with bean-bag rounds fired from a shotgun. He died hours later of internal bleeding, authorities said.

Though Wrana was infirm and needed a walker or a cane to get around, police considered him armed and dangerous. They said he brandished a cane, a knife and a 2-foot-long metal shoehorn that some officers initially took for a machete.


Police-related suits cost city more than $500 million since ’04

April 3, 2014, Chicago Times: Over the past decade, the City of Chicago has spent more than $500 million on police-related settlements, judgments, legal fees and other costs — raising new questions about the adequacy of training and oversight in the Chicago Police Department, according to a review by the Better Government Association.

In 2013 alone, the city shelled out $84.6 million — the largest annual payout in the decade analyzed by the BGA, and more than triple the $27.3 million the city had initially projected to spend last year….

In all, the BGA found more than $521.3 million has been spent to handle police misconduct-related lawsuits from 2004 to the present day. The true cost, though, is even higher, as the BGA counted settlements and judgments, legal bills and other fees — but
not less tangible expenses related to, say, insurance premiums, investigators and the
cost of incarcerating innocents.

In all, the BGA found 1,611 misconduct-related lawsuits had been filed against Chicago
police from 2009 to 2013, a majority alleging excessive force.


**HPD sergeant fired, 7 others disciplined in murder case probe**

April 4, 2014, Houston Chronicle: A Houston Police Department sergeant was fired
Friday and seven others punished after an internal investigation of the homicide division
determined nearly two dozen murder cases were ignored or investigative work was
shoddy, Chief Charles McClelland said.


**New York City police and firefighters engage in massive fistfight (VIDEO)**

Anyone surprised by this headline? *I think most of us could have predicted the outcome*
of this “hockey game”.  *Lt. Dan*

April 7, 2014, RT: A charity hockey match over the weekend between members of New
York City’s police and fire departments was momentarily put on hold after a massive
brawl cleared the benches of both teams.

http://rt.com/usa/nypd-fire-fight-hockey-969/

**Detective Who Shot Unarmed Guardsman Disciplined by NYPD**

April 5, 2014, NBC: An NYPD detective who shot and killed a National Guardsman
during a traffic stop in Queens in October 2012 was hit Thursday with departmental
charges for the young man's death, according to police officials.

The NYPD charged Detective Hassan Hamdy with "failure to employ proper tactics that
caused a civilian's death." In February, a grand jury cleared Hamdy of any wrongdoing
in the death of 22-year-old Noel Polanco, who was shot after being pulled over on the
Grand Central Parkway.

Sgt. Thomas Glaudino, who supervised Hamdy's Emergency Service Unit team, was
charged with "failure to supervise his team" by the NYPD.

Deputy Chief Kim Y. Royster says the department will initiate an "internal disciplinary
process, which may result in adjudication by the Department Advocate's office." "The
final decision regarding penalties will rest solely with the Police Commissioner," said
Royster.

Tulsa OK, Police Officer charged with five felonies

Looks like some good proactive police work by Tulsa PD. Lt. Dan

March 3, 2014, FOX23: Drummond said the charges came after a Tulsa police investigation culminated in a “sting” operation. Jenkins is accused of receiving payments of $2,300 on March 4 and $800 on March 17 in exchange for the officer’s agreement to provide confidential information from a Tulsa police computer database. In addition, prosecutors allege Jenkins attempted to deliver cocaine.

http://www.fox23.com/mostpopular/story/Tulsa-police-officer-charged-with-five-felonies/dPMYsyk8JUKV1MjBk6a3Zg.cspx

LAPD officers tampered with in-car recording equipment, records show

April 7, 2014, LA Times: This is a great area for an inspection, applicable to any type of camera system.

Last summer an LAPD supervisor noticed a police car radio antenna missing. The missing antenna is used to pick up a signal for an audio recording from a mike worn by officers and connected to the in car video system. A missing antenna can lead to limited range and / or poor audio on a car camera recording when officers are out of the vehicle. Further inspection determined that about half the antennas were missing (72) from the 160 vehicles at that station. Due to shift rotation and numerous drivers it was determined an investigation would be futile and a warning was given to officers not to remove the antennas. The chief did not notify the police commission, which caused some issues for him later.

Last month, the department conducted a follow-up audit and found that dozens of the transmitters worn by officers in Southeast Division were missing or damaged. This time, department officials opted to open a formal investigation into whether officers broke or lost the devices intentionally, Smith said. Lt. Dan

http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-lapd-tamper-20140408,0,7666331.story#axzz2ylsn3mZe

Miami-Dade police internal affairs lieutenant accused of helping cocaine traffickers

APRIL 8, 2014, MIAMIHERALD.COM: Miami-Dade cop Ralph Mata, the feds said Tuesday, protected cocaine smugglers, bought them firearms, doled out sensitive law enforcement intelligence and even concocted a detailed plot to murder rivals.

But Mata, 45, is no low-ranking uniformed patrolman – he is a lieutenant with internal affairs, tasked with rooting out corruption within his own department.

Federal authorities arrested Mata in Miami Gardens on Tuesday, stunning fellow officers, who described the longtime policeman as a straight-laced, low-key supervisor who has been with Miami-Dade’s Professional Compliance Bureau since March 2010.

Mata, who joined the department in 1992, will make an appearance in Miami federal court Wednesday morning. It was unknown Tuesday if he had a lawyer; the department’s union was not representing him.
A Miami-Dade police department spokesman declined to comment Tuesday. The investigation was spearheaded by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey, where Mata is now charged with a slew of federal counts, including aiding a conspiracy to distribute cocaine. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

In a criminal complaint that reads like a Hollywood script, the FBI portrayed Mata as a key player in a real-life cocaine smuggling ring that specialized in moving dope in produce pallets via countries such as Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. He called himself “The Milk Man.”

So far, authorities have seized at least 160 kilograms of cocaine from the unnamed drug smugglers.


**Former Prince George’s County Police Officer Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison**

April 2, 2014, US Attorney Office: The former officer was convicted of Conspiracy to Distribute Untaxed Cigarettes and Cocaine and on Gun Charges. Members of the Conspiracy Paid an Undercover Agent $1,770,230 for More Than 17 Million Contraband Cigarettes


**Five Chicago Officers caught in lies on witness stand**

April 15, 2014, Chicago Tribune: In a ‘Perry Mason’ moment, a video played in court contradicts police officers who testified their drug arrest was proper, resulting in the case being thrown out and the officers under investigation.


**Former Tucson Police spokeswoman fired for 'untruthfulness'**

April 18, 2014, TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - The former face of the Tucson Police Department has been terminated. Tucson News Now has confirmed that Maria Hawke, who recently had been promoted to Lieutenant, lost her job on April 9.

Sgt. Pete Dugan tells Tucson News Now that Hawke, who had served as a public information officer, was terminated after an "investigation of untruthfulness."


**Police Officer arrested for thefts from evidence room**

April 23, 2014, Fox 43: Reading PA: Police Chief William Heim reported the suspected theft to the Berks County District Attorney’s Office on March 18th. Berks County Detectives started an investigation that led to Royer’s arrest. On March 14th, Royer was caught by his supervisor trying to replace over $2,000 of U.S. currency from a criminal
case with his own money. Police knew it was not the evidence cash because the denominations of the bills were different.

Detectives conducted an audit and discovered six additional criminal cases were tampered with. In four of those cases, the money was stolen and not recovered. The total loss in those cases is $14,484. In the other cases, the stolen money was replaced by Royer.

Royer surrendered this morning and taken to the Berks County Sheriff Department's Central Processing Center for processing and arraignment.

Royer joined the Reading Police Department in the fall of 1990 and has worked in the Evidence/Property Unit since April of 2011.

http://fox43.com/2014/04/23/reading-police-officer-arrested-for-theft/

Ex-LA sheriff's deputies charged with planting evidence at pot dispensary

April 23, 2014, LA Times: Two former Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies have been charged with conspiracy, perjury and altering evidence in connection with planting guns inside a medical marijuana dispensary to justify two arrests in 2011, prosecutors said.

Julio Cesar Martinez, 39, and Anthony Manuel Paez, 32, were charged with one felony count each of conspiracy to obstruct justice and altering evidence as a peace officer, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office. Martinez was also charged with two felony counts of perjury and one of filing a false report.

Both men were booked Friday and released on $50,000 bail each. They are scheduled to be arraigned June 17. Prosecutors said if the former deputies are convicted of the charges, they face more than seven years in state prison.


Former Houston PD officer charged in drug case

April 24, 2014, KHOU.com: HOUSTON -- A former HPD officer is accused of providing security and cover for drug dealers while he was a member of the agency.

Marcos Carrion, 36, is charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.


Former Columbus Police Detective Sentenced For Drug Crimes
April 27, 2014, 1-TV.com: COLUMBUS, Ohio - The sentencing comes after Billups pleaded guilty last November to one count of attempted possession with intent to distribute heroin. According to court documents, Billups provided armed protection for two transactions involving drugs while he was a Columbus Police officer. Billups was sentenced on Friday to 57 months in prison plus a $10,000 fine and three years supv released upon his release.

Billups was involved in two stings by the FBI, in which he protected a drug dealer in the pickup of drug money. He received a total of $5,000 in exchange for providing protection to the dealer during the transactions.

http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/04/25/columbus-former-detective-sentenced-to-prison.html

Dallas officer indicted in shooting of mentally ill man

April 29, 2014, WFAA.com: DALLAS — A Dallas County grand jury has indicted a former police officer who shot a mentally ill disabled man.

The man was standing still with a knife in his hand last October, according to several sources with knowledge of the situation.


Corrupt law enforcement officers sentenced

April 29, 2014, MySanantonio: McALLEN — Most of the former officers in court were members of the defunct Panama Unit, comprised of some Hidalgo County sheriff's deputies and Mission police officers. All but one pleaded guilty last year to stealing drug shipments from traffickers and selling them to their rivals.

Two drug dealers were also convicted for working with the officers. Those sentenced Tuesday were Jorge Garza and J.P. Flores, both former deputies, were sentenced to 10 years plus four years of supervised release. Another former deputy, Gerardo Mendoza-Duran, got an eight-year sentence and four years of supervised release. Claudio Mata, also a former deputy, got 11 years and eight months in prison and four years supervised release.


Two dozen Detroit police officers will be suspended for outstanding arrest warrants

Another good reason to do a records checks, to include a triple I and drivers license, on your employees every time you do an annual evaluation. Lt. Dan.

April 28, 2104, Chelsea Patch: The warrants aren’t for criminal offenses, Detroit Police Sgt. Michael Woody told The Detroit News. The newspaper cited a police source who said 23 officers were suspended, a number Woody couldn’t confirm. In addition
to parking violations, the offenses may also have involved a couple of moving violations, he said.


**Denver officer’s misuse of credit reward points prompts policy change**

*Issue you may want to look into in your agency: Lt. Dan*

April 28, 2014, Denver Post: Tighter policies on city-issued credit cards are on the way after a Denver police officer was accused of using reward points from department purchases to load up on electronics for his own use.

The reward points were traded in for more than $1,000 worth of purchases at Best Buy, according to Denver Police Department officials.


**FBI: 42 people killed in homicidal violence in 2013 on country’s largest Indian reservation**

April 28, 2014, USNews: FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — New FBI statistics show the vast Navajo Nation saw a sharp increase in the murder rate in 2013 and finished the year with 42 homicides, eclipsing major metropolitan areas with less space and far more people, like Seattle and Boston.


Due to the large number of cases we recommend the link below. We do not endorse the link or its views but have found it to be a good source of police misconduct information.

http://www.policemisconduct.net/