

# ICOPs

# POLICE BULLETIN

Official Union Publication

February 2006

## Officer Gorski's Finally Doing What He Loves To Do

★ Since winning his case in Circuit Court on December 19, North Aurora Police Officer Joe Gorski has been on the job and keeping busy. In his first three weeks back, he recovered two stolen autos, arrested a burglary group, caught a few DUIs, and helped capture two suspects in a drive-by shooting, an action for which his unit received recognition.

North Aurora Police Officers Travis Foltz, John Kerlin and Gorski, and Sergeant Joe De Leo received Meritorious Unit Citations from the mayor and chief of police at the village board meeting in January. They were honored for helping Aurora police apprehend two suspects who attempted to kill someone in a drive-by shooting on December 11. See the story behind the awards on our website at [www.icops.org](http://www.icops.org) "police news and resources."

★ Where was Gorski before his day in court? He was generally assigned to desk duty. How did that happen?

As reported in the last edition of the *ICOPs Police Bulletin*, on April 3 Officer Gorski — then two years on the job — quickly came to the aid of an Illinois state trooper who had stopped several cars on I-88, reportedly with weapons. For his rapid response to the call, Gorski was charged with several violations of standard operating procedures, and was suspended without pay and without a hearing.



ICOPs Attorney Richard Blass quickly obtained a temporary restraining order, and took the case before the village police and fire commission on June 2. The three-member commission found that the facts did not support the charges and ordered Gorski reinstated with back pay. In doing so, the commission issued a unanimous and rare directed verdict, which meant that Gorski did not even need to present witnesses. The packed room erupted in applause at hearing the verdict.

But the controversy didn't end there. Subsequently, the village appealed the ruling to the Circuit Court to overturn the decision — in effect challenging the ruling of its own commissioners. It claimed that the police/fire commission had made a mistake

and that Gorski should be fired. Meanwhile, two of the three commissioners resigned because the city didn't approve of their ruling. And, Gorski was put on desk duty.

★ On December 19, Kane County Circuit Court Judge Judy Brawka ruled that there was not enough evidence to overturn the commission and ruled in favor of Gorski. The attorney for the police/fire commission joined with ICOPs Attorney Richard Blass in asking that the decision not be overturned.

Of his victory, Gorski said, "I was very relieved because I thought now this would be the end of it and I'd be returned to full status. It's time to look forward, and I'm glad to be doing my job again."

Gorski added, "We have a great group of officers in the police department, men and women who go out every day to protect the citizens of North Aurora. And I believe things are going to improve in the department and for the residents. I'm glad to be part of that team."

**Update on contract negotiations in North Aurora** — The police officers won union recognition in November of 2004. Now after much pushing by ICOPs and stalling by the village, negotiations for a first-ever union contract are moving along. The non-economic issues have been tentatively agreed upon, and ICOPs and the village are negotiating the economic package. Problems areas in the bargaining include management rights, compensatory time, vacation day and personal days.



*In photo at left are ICOPs Attorney Richard Blass, Officer Joe Gorski and ICOPs President Norm Frese. Above are Rich Blass; Joseph John Gorski, Jr (Joe's grandfather, a retired Oak Park fire lieutenant); Joe Gorski; Norm Frese; and Joseph John Gorski, III (Joe's father, a retired Westchester police lieutenant). Photos were taken December 19 after Gorski, joined by family and fellow officers, won a Circuit Court case sending him back to his job.*

## Debate about Hair Drug Testing of Police Lights Up Again

Awareness of issues related to hair drug testing increased when the Associated Press (AP) published a story August 24 that ran on several major news outlets about seven Boston police officers. Hair drug tests can detect drug use within a three-month period, as opposed to a few days for urine. Basic questions in the debate are whether or not the testing is consistently accurate and fair, is an invasion of privacy, and is a good use of resources. Unions, employers, courts, and civil rights and civil liberties groups, among others, are involved. The jobs and reputations of police officers are at stake, as is the public's right to expect a drug-free police force. In the article below we summarized the information we found from many sources. As events take place, ICOPs will keep you informed in our *Police Bulletins* and at [www.icops.org](http://www.icops.org).

- **In 1988, a federal judge in Boston declared random urine testing of police officers an invasion of privacy.** A long legal battle ensued between Boston's police unions and commissioner that ended in an agreement with three of the four unions to allow testing of hair samples instead of urine.

- **After hearings in the late 1990s, hair testing was approved by the National Institute on Drug Abuse** of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Yet, warnings about hair testing were presented by experts. For example, one reads that "First and probably foremost, it is unclear how drugs enter hair. . . . The possibility of drug entry from sweat and/or the environment are particularly troubling since this allows the possibility of false positives if an individual's hair absorbs drugs from the environment or from another person's drug-laden sweat."

News accounts claim that reports in the journal *Forensic Drug Abuse Advisor* in the late 1990s state that "there is no way to adequately control for the possibility of external contamination." Other studies have found that dark-haired people are more likely to test positive for drugs because they have higher levels of melanin, which allows drug compounds to bind more easily to the hair.

- **In 1999, the Boston PD began an annual test of police using hair testing.** Eight months later, 23 of some 1,200 officers screened tested positive, primarily for cocaine and marijuana. The 23 included police who handled 911 calls, fingerprinting and records, as well as patrols; none were from the narcotics unit. More than half had between 10 and 20 years of experience on the job. In a departure from other big PDs, the Boston police who tested positive were suspended and offered drug rehab, followed by reinstatement; 19 of the 23 accepted a "second chance" with monitoring.

- **In July 2005, seven former Boston police officers sued their PD.** The former officers — all African-Americans who were fired between 2002 and 2004 after testing positive for cocaine in tests using their hair samples — allege the screening technique is biased and faulty. They are seeking reinstatement to their jobs, back pay and damages.

All seven former officers deny using drugs. Six of the seven had a second hair test conducted within days of the positive result. One officer had another hair test, a urine test and a blood test. All tests were analyzed by a different laboratory, and all subsequent tests came back negative.

## Bargaining Brings Harvey Police Wages in Line

Three years ago — during negotiations for a first-ever union contract and newly represented by ICOPs — Harvey police officers agreed that they wouldn't force the pay equity issue because the city had then recently gone through great turmoil. The officers agreed to cooperate on condition that they would achieve parity of wages in their subsequent contract. Now, Harvey police are looking forward to their new contract.

Negotiations began in June 2005, and the village approved the new contract at the Harvey board meeting on January 9, 2006. The new three-year contract goes into effect immediately, with the wage increases retroactive to June 1, 2005. The new wage scale will bring the Harvey police closely in line with other departments in the surrounding areas. The top step of the scale will increase by \$12,500 per year.

According to ICOPs Harvey Chapter President, Sonny Harris, "Negotiations went rather well but it took longer than I thought it would." Harris adds that management acted slowly on the wage issue, especially on making it retroactive to the expiration date of the old contract.

Although the vote in favor of the new contract was unanimous, Harris hastens to add that everything's not all rosy in Harvey. Understaffing is still a problem. The force has 31 full-time officers, and several part-time officers. In late 2005, the city hired three full-time officers in place of part-time officers, but Harris expects there to be more full-time officers on the job this year.

"In our first contract," Harris states, "police officers bent over backwards to cooperate with the city. Now with things in Harvey under more control, we expect management to more fully abide by the contract. They've agreed on the terms of the contract, and we don't want to see any violations whatsoever."

The lawsuit claims that scientific literature indicates that the texture of African-American hair as well as hair products used can skew test results, and that the officers were exposed to drug residue on the job. The lawsuit is one of many legal challenges to hair drug tests, which are used by companies and police departments nationwide.

- **Also, in July, a Fort Wayne police officer won his job back after testing positive for cocaine.** Narcotics detective Timothy Bobay tested positive after a hair sample was taken from his forearm during a random screening last year. The chief moved to fire him, but he vehemently denied using cocaine and argued that the positive test came from exposure to cocaine dust on the job three weeks earlier. Bobay, who is white and has dark hair, had a hair sample taken from his head tested by a different laboratory and also had a urine test — both came back negative. The company was unable to rule out environmental exposure to cocaine as the reason for his positive test, and he was not fired.

The testing company, Psychemedics Corp., is the largest provider of hair testing for drug use, with clients including large companies and the Chicago and Los Angeles PDs. While the company says that the testing is very reliable, some officers who've been tested say it hurts some good cops.

## Police Manpower Shortages Are Life Threatening



In our September 2005 *Police Bulletin*, I wrote of my concern about actions that some states are taking to meet their ballooning budget deficits. Many governors are aiming at police and other public employees' pensions. Public employees have not taken this sitting down.

In 2005, a contentious battle took place in California, where the gov-

ernor put on the ballot several anti-public employee referendums. Fortunately, the proposals went down to big defeat, as police and other unions, working together, informed the voters what the referendums really meant — including slicing up police pensions.

Threats to police pensions and benefits are not the only severe crises facing the law enforcement community today as a result of rapidly-rising deficits. Since 9/11, law enforcement agencies as well as fire departments have taken much of the brunt of doing more with less. The number of police officers has remained essentially stagnant in recent years despite the community-policing program which expended \$9 billion to put 118,000 more officers on the streets, a program now being phased out.

Police departments are thinning out, or not keeping up with increased responsibilities, or both. Many departments, including some of those represented by ICOPs, are dangerously short of officers. Take a look at the villages and towns of the south and southwest suburban metropolitan area whose police departments are stretched to the bone while development and population increase dramatically.

In one way or another, manpower shortages involve every area of law enforcement — city and towns of all sizes, state police, patrol officers, telecommunicators, prison guards and so forth. The shortages are an outgrowth of budget decisions made at all levels of governments, starting first in Washington, DC. And, just like in California, to begin to get on a better track will require educating the public and persuading public officials.

No one factor has created the manpower shortages, but underlying trends contributing to the shortages include:

★ Many police officers have been pulled into military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

★ Since 9/11, the Bush administration has asked and rightly secured more assistance from local law enforcement to combat terrorism. But, at the same time it has cut federal assistance to local agencies while drastically increasing the resources at the federal level. Its justification that local staffing levels are the responsibility of governors and mayors doesn't hold water.

★ Despite some rather heroic efforts by individual U.S. Representatives, Congress has spent much of its time arguing, competing and tugging over their favorite pork barrel projects, rather than responding to overall concerns for public safety and helping to beef up first responders at all levels of governments.

★ The public's demand for more public safety services, new roads and highways, new airports and stadiums, and so forth, mean more and more work for overworked law enforcement agencies.

★ Recruiting new cops today is harder than ever. Want ads offering hefty signing bonuses to new recruits are appearing, and cops are paying other cops to find new cops. Departments compete with each other, and law enforcement agencies compete with the military to meet manpower needs.

Manpower shortages are costly and life threatening. As a police officer, you know that all too well. You know that shortages do not go unnoticed by the criminal elements. You know they make it take longer for patrols to reach the scene of a crime or to respond to 911 calls. They lead to less accessibility to police officers by the public and to shorter hours for stations being open to the public.

Manpower shortages make our residents less safe and secure every day, as well as in the case of any future attacks or major public emergencies. The decrease in crime over the last decade is often attributed to the federal funding increases for local law enforcement agencies that came through the previous administration in Washington. Current budget deficits and manpower shortages put the downward trend in crime at serious risk.

On a personal basis, shortages surely make it harder on all law enforcement officers, causing stress and excessive overtime, creating higher burn-out rates, causing hardships to our families, deteriorating our health, and far too often putting our lives at risk. For police departments, they create huge payouts for overtime and overtax all departmental resources.

**What do we do about manpower shortages?** In addition to fighting for fair staffing through contract negotiations, ICOPs joins the chorus of law enforcement voices calling manpower shortages intolerable. The governors and mayors complain about the unfunded mandates of the federal government, and they are correct. If officials in Washington, DC, create more responsibilities for state and local authorities, as they should, they then need to fund them. We need to keep the heat on Congress and the White House to do so, while maintaining a voice in the decision-making of our state government.

Today more than ever before, police need more extensive training, handle more violence, face more weapons and more threats, and are forced to face increasingly unsafe working conditions with increasingly scarce resources for the jobs that need to be done. It's long past time to put an end to the trend of doing more with less.

*In Solidarity,*

**Norm Frese**, ICOPs President

# Controversial Handgun Marks Its First Year On the Streets

In winter of 2004, Sgt. Lenny Scinto of the Trumbull (Connecticut) Police Department decided to run his own test on a gun seized in a recent arrest. It was a new type of handgun first made legal for civilians that same year. He fired the gun, loaded with then-legal ammunition, into a standard issue police vest at a distance of 21 feet. All three rounds easily penetrated the vest, a feat that was not duplicated by a 45 caliber round from another gun similarly fired into the vest.

The armor-piercing weapon was the Five-seveN pistol, made by the Belgian firm of FN Herstal and formerly available only to military and police. At about the same time Scinto conducted this test, reporter Scott Weinberger of WNBC NewsChannel 4 in New York City was investigating the Five-seveN, which also had been taken off the street by police in nearby Camden, New Jersey. On January 13, 2005, WNBC broadcast Weinberger's report on the new weapon and Scinto's test. That same day New York City's Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly called for the handgun to be taken off the market. "This is a weapon of war," Kelly said. "It's not something that should be out on the streets of our city or our country."

The WNBC report touched off a firestorm of public response that continues today. The bulk of the controversy about the weapon centers on whether the Five-seveN represents a new threat to law enforcement without the special cartridges, not available to the public, that FN Herstal claims are the only ones with armor penetrating capabilities. The origins of the Five-seveN, however, are all about its ability to penetrate armor.

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, an international authority on armaments, called the Five-SeveN a "radical" new weapon when it was introduced in 1996. About the same size as any full size service weapon, such as a standard issue Glock, it weighs only 1.5 lbs fully loaded. Its recoil is extremely low, like that of a .22 target pistol. Currently priced at about \$900 retail, the Five-seveN comes with three magazines, each holding a remarkable 20 rounds that can be fired at 2100 feet per second, similar to the velocity of a carbine rifle. These features make the Five-seveN an incomparably light and concealable weapon that gives the shooter an ability to engage targets quickly and repeatedly without reloading.

What makes the handgun unique, however, are its cartridges. It uses the 5.7 x 28 mm ammunition originally designed for the FNH P90 sub-machine gun. In part, FNH developed the

5.7 rounds in response to NATO's call for a new cartridge for military and police use that would have greater range, accuracy, and stopping power than the commonly available 9 x 19mm round. On its website, FNH boasts that the Five-seveN will perforate 48 layers of Kevlar up to 200 meters — with armor-piercing cartridges.

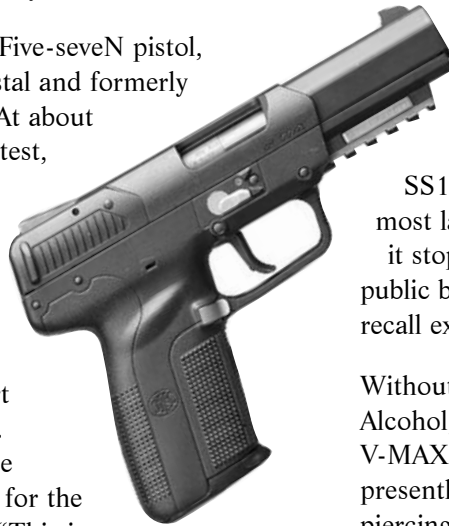
After being told of Scinto's ballistics test with a commercially available gun and cartridges, FNH disputed the results, saying, "Most law enforcement agencies don't have the ability to properly test a ballistic vest." Subsequent tests run by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence showed that 5.7 x 28 mm SS192 cartridges penetrate the level IIA body armor that most law enforcement officers use. FN Herstal countered that it stopped selling 5.7 x 28 mm SS192 cartridges to the U.S. public by 2005, although they reportedly made no effort to recall existing product from dealers.

Without conducting its own tests, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms determined that the SS196 V-MAX bullet — the only round for the Five-seveN that is presently unrestricted from commercial sale — is not armor piercing under the wording of existing federal firearms statutes. The National Rifle Association agreed with the ATF, saying that there is nothing special about the SS196 cartridges and calling the Five-seveN a "conventional semi-automatic pistol."

Some legislators, though, did not wait for more definitive test results. On March 7, duplicate bills known as the Protect Law Enforcement Armor Act were introduced in the U.S. House (H.R. 1136) and Senate (S. 527). If passed, they would ban the Five-seveN outright and amend the federal criminal code to expand the definition of "armor piercing ammunition."

The bills currently await further action in committee.

As for now, perhaps the best advice for cops was summed up in a recent newsletter of the Oregon Peace Officer's Association: "[Make] yourself familiar with this weapon and its capabilities.... This is a fine weapon...but in the hands of the wrong person it could create a big problem for officers. Because of the range and accuracy of this weapon a gunman could hold patrol officers off at a distance making it impractical if not impossible to engage him with the officer's service weapon or issued shotgun."



**Perhaps the best advice for cops: "[Make] yourself familiar with this weapon and its capabilities.... This is a fine weapon... but in the hands of the wrong person it could create a big problem for officers."**

— Oregon Peace Officer's Association

Sources: *Law Enforcement Technology*, *American Police Beat*, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, *Global Defence Weekly*, *National Rifle Association*, *Brady Center for the Prevention of Handgun Violence*, *Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms*, *Oregon Peace Officer's Association Newsletter*.

# Small Favors Make Big Trouble

Minoqua, Wisconsin police dispatcher Dawn Bresnahan probably thought she was doing a harmless favor. All she did was run a license plate number for a police officer who told her another cop was interested in buying a car. Doing another little favor, she gave the name of the person who owned the plate to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Warden. Today, though, such favors could get Bresnahan and a lot of other cops in big trouble.

Due to the federal **Drivers Privacy Protection Act (DPPA)**, a whole cast of characters plus two town governments now face serious penalties in an ongoing federal lawsuit. The story behind the lawsuit shows how easily a chain of liability can be created under the DPPA.

According to the allegations of plaintiff William Parus, it all started on the morning of September 20, 2004, when his car was parked outside the home of his new girlfriend, Julie Erickson. Minoqua Police Officer, Andrew Cator, who was Erickson's ex-boyfriend, saw the parked car and made a note of its license plate number.



That same morning, Officer Clay Kreitlow, Cator's friend from the neighboring Wisconsin town of Woodruff, called Minoqua dispatcher Bresnahan who ran the plate for him and gave him the owner information. Curiously, Kreitlow called back a few minutes later, telling Bresnahan that Cator was interested in buying the car, but not to give out the information to anyone else who might ask.

Two minutes later, DNR Warden Tom Kroeplin — who happened to be Cator's uncle — called Bresnahan and asked for information about the same license plate number. Bresnahan refused Kroeplin at first, but relented when Kroeplin persisted, promising that he would keep the information to himself. She then told him the plate belonged to Parus.

About 20 minutes later, the Minoqua PD received a 911 call. Cator was outside Erickson's door, kicking in the porchlight, threatening bodily harm to Parus, and warning Erickson that she would never see their child again. The threats and harassment allegedly continued for months.

With the interested help of *The Lakeland Times*, a newspaper serving a cluster of towns around Minoqua, Parus obtained information by legal request from the involved agencies that helped to document the events of September 20. In February 2005, Parus filed a federal lawsuit, naming all parties in the information request chain that led to the disclosure of his name.

The DPPA was passed in 1994 after actress Rebecca Schaeffer was murdered by a stalker who had obtained her home address from the California DMV, but implementation was delayed until 2000 when the Supreme Court upheld the law against legal challenges. The DPPA sets penalties for violations and makes violators liable on a civil action to the individual to whom the released information pertains. All states are required to meet its minimum requirements.

Basically, the DPPA regulates how DMVs release motorists' records and how the recipients of motorists' records — such as law enforcement officials — subsequently share them. A recent amendment to the DPPA also prohibits a DMV from distributing personal information for uses that include direct marketing, unless an individual gives permission. Information that the DPPA protects includes, "an individual's photograph, social security number, driver identification number, name, address (but not the 5-digit zip code), telephone number, and medical or disability information, but does not include information on vehicular accidents, driving violations, and driver's status."

The DPPA does allow for the normal sharing of personal information from motorists' records with law enforcement officials, courts, government agencies, private investigators, insurance underwriters and similar businesses — as long as those agencies or individuals are doing so in the course of carrying out their proper functions.

Which is exactly what police dispatcher Bresnahan needed to know to protect herself, and perhaps her cohorts, from facing a federal lawsuit. Under the terms of the DPPA, "favors" such as Bresnahan's can be punished.

In mid December, the judge dismissed the case against Bresnahan, but the case against the DNR warden and the town of Woodruff is scheduled for a jury trial in February.

Sources: *The Lakeland Times* and websites of the Federal Trade Commission, Cornell Law School, Nixon Peabody LLP and University of Oklahoma Police Department.

## *It's Our Opinion:*

### **DOL is Off the Mark on Overtime**

What ICOPs and most other labor unions feared finally happened. On October 14, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published an Opinion Letter stating that, contrary to their earlier statements about the overtime guarantees for police officers "regardless of their rank or level of pay," high ranking police officers including lieutenants and above could be exempt from overtime pay.

The letter concluded that police captains and lieutenants may satisfy an "Executive" exemption based on their specific job tasks related to selecting and training employees, setting work schedules, directing the work of others, evaluating performance and handling complaints and grievances. It also said that such executives need not be required to have the ultimate authority in matters of hiring and discipline, as long as their opinions were given "particular weight." This exemption could also be applied to sergeants.

Most unions worked very hard to defeat the DOL rule changes, and to win passage of the Harkin bill which would have guaranteed in law that all workers who had received overtime would continue to receive it. The Harkin bill passed both houses of Congress on several occasions; unfortunately it was erased in committee hearings. (The Fraternal Order of Police actually hailed the DOL's position, and opposed the Harkin bill.)

With local governments facing financial calamity, it would be naive to think that city managers and mayors will not take advantage of this DOL opinion, and reduce their police budgets by cutting overtime to those who previously earned it.

## 2004 IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

# 139 Police Officers Killed, 16,000 Injured

The FBI reported in November that 139 police officers were killed in the line of duty in 2004, and more than 16,000 officers suffered injuries.

Guns and traffic accidents claimed the most lives. Fifty-four officers were shot to death and 31 of those were wearing body armor. Forty-eight officers were killed in traffic accidents.

The average age of the officer killed was 39. The average level of police experience was 12 years for those killed intentionally and 11 years for those killed accidentally.

Authorities solved all but one of the cases of officers who were shot to death or otherwise intentionally killed.

Thirty-nine suspects were arrested, 11 were killed by police and eight committed suicide, according to the FBI.

Of the 57 officers killed intentionally, 39 were on vehicle patrols, 10 were investigating disturbance calls, and 12 were ambushed.

The South is by far the deadliest region in the country for police intentionally killed as well as for those who die accidentally.

In addition to the officer deaths, more than 59,000 officers were assaulted in 2004 while on duty and more than 16,000 suffered injuries. Eighty percent of accidental injuries involved hands, fists and feet.



## New Lines Drawn in Crown Victoria Battle

On October 14, 2005, Patrolman John Wheeler of the San Antonio Police Department was killed when

his patrol car was rear-ended by another vehicle and burst into flames. Also in Texas, on November 25, a Denton County Sheriff's Deputy and a student intern narrowly escaped a fiery death after a pickup truck slammed into the rear end of their cruiser, igniting the gas tank. Both police vehicles were Ford Crown Victorias.

As reported in the September 2005 *ICOPs Police Bulletin*, many police departments across Illinois had dropped out of a class action suit against Ford Motor Company earlier in the year. This followed Ford's refusal to sell the popular CV to departments participating in the CV class action suits.

Ford has been accused of failing to correct a design that it has kept since it introduced its CV line in 1978, namely that the fuel tank is located behind the rear axle. This makes it more prone to leak and explode in rear end collisions. Starting in 2002, Ford began offering after-sale modifications, spending nearly \$350 million to retrofit approximately 350,000 police cruisers. The Texas police vehicles that burst into flames already had been retrofitted with the plastic shields that help prevent vehicle components from puncturing the fuel tank in a crash.

While Ford has been able to limit its liability in police-related litigation, it may have a tough time fighting on a second front — with civilians. On Sept. 10, 2003, three sisters were killed in Greensboro, North Carolina when their Lincoln Town Car limousine, which is mechanically identical to the CV police car, was struck from behind by a drunk driver and exploded into flames. The trial over the burning death of the three sisters began January 16 of this year.

Their families are suing Ford for continuing to offer for public use vehicles that burst into flames when struck from behind at high speeds. The new twist in this trial is that the suit claims that Ford admitted to design problems when it began upgrading police vehicles with protective shields in 2002, but did not take similar protective measures with civilian vehicles at the time. In September 2005, Ford began to offer Lincoln Town Car owners the same retrofit kits it gave police to keep the gas tanks of their CVs from being punctured when rear-ended.

To date, the Crown Victoria has been blamed in the fire deaths of at least 18 police officers. What remains debatable is how many of those deaths could have been prevented through better automobile design. Officer Wheeler's CV, for instance, was rear-ended at an estimated 100 mph by a pickup truck, a formidable challenge to any platform design. It is also hard to argue for design change with continuing strong sales. The Ford CV remains popular with police officers and continues to comprise over 80% of all police cruisers.

Even so, Daimler Chrysler seems to have smelled Ford's blood in the water. Chrysler is betting that it can win over the police with a new product. Last fall Chrysler put its Dodge Charger and Magnum police cars on sale. The standard police package on these rear-wheel-drive vehicles includes a muscular 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 engine and a fuel economy system that switches between four- and eight-cylinder modes. Positive reports from early field testing mainly come from the Michigan State Police Department. If you have test driven either of these new models, let us know what you think.

Sources: *Officer.com*, *San Antonio Express*, *Winston-Salem Journal*, *Autoblog*, *Trial Lawyers for Public Justice*, *The Center for Auto Safety*, *Detroit Free Press*

# ICOPs Police Bulletin

published by



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## Zylon Vest Rebates Available

An amendment to the Justice Department budget for fiscal 2006 was enacted to fully fund the cost to local law enforcement agencies who replace body armor containing Zylon. The matching requirement for the replacement of other vests remains in effect.



The budget amendment reads, "The Attorney General shall waive the matching requirement for the purchase of bullet proof vests of the Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 for any law enforcement agency that purchased defective Zylon based body armor with federal funds... between October 1, 1998 and September 30, 2005, and seeks to replace that Zylon based body armor."

To waive the matching requirement, documentation is required to prove that purchases were made during the effective dates. Thirty million dollars were appropriated for the vest program in 2006, up from \$25 million last year.

### ICOPs LEGAL PLAN

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## Officers Win the Right to Carry Arms on Harper Campus

Negotiations for a new union contract covering the police and community service officers at Harper College in Palatine won't begin for another month or two. But the officers have already won something they wanted for many years and it didn't come through negotiating a contract.

After years of trying, the campus police are wearing arms — something that since 9/11 is becoming the norm at community colleges across the country. Even before the college security staff was represented by a union, the officers and Harper's chief of police collaborated to push for the right of sworn officers to carry arms.

The process of getting there was a long one, but it succeeded. Some of the faculty had objected to having guns on campus and it took several years to win the support of the faculty senate. The issue was then brought to and approved by the college assembly, which is composed of faculty, public safety personnel and adjunct staff. Subsequently, it went to the college president, who approved it and authorized the arming of officers effective October 1.

Just a few weeks later, a home invasion took place in Palatine. A couple of the men involved in the incident then were involved in a second incident on campus. The perpetrators were taken into custody by sworn, armed campus police officers.



**In photo, Harper Officers Steve Liggio (left) and A.J. Fleck check out new TV training.**

The Harper campus has a maximum population of 30,000 students and staff who are protected by the full-time police and community service officers represented by ICOPs. The officers' union contract expires June 30, and they'll soon begin negotiating their third contract. Seniority, pay raises and top-out pay in seven years or less are major issues.

Mark Neubecker, ICOPs Harper chapter president, is a community service officer with five years on the job at the college and four years as union president. Police Officer Graham Johnson is chapter vice-president, and Police Officer John Farris is chapter secretary.