



ROLL CALL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Police Officers' Federation of Minneapolis
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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the positive role of the police profession. To protect and secure members' rights and benefits through effective representation and professional relationships with the community and local, state and national governments.



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ARE WE BREEDING A POLICE CULTURE OF "ADDITIONAL VICTIMS?"

By Chuck Remsberg
Senior PoliceOne.com Contributor



Law enforcement agencies "should build a police culture that accepts, validates and rewards a fighting spirit." Instead too many are creating "additional victims," hesitant officers who shy from using deadly force when it's legal and urgently needed. The result: "Some officers today are more afraid of being sued than being murdered!"

That sobering message was delivered passionately in Milwaukee earlier this month by one of a rare breed, a tell-it-like-it-is administrator, Chief Jeff Chudwin of Olympia Fields (Ill.) PD. Chudwin spoke on "Surviving Officer-Involved Shootings and the Aftermath" to kick off an intense tactical operations seminar produced by the Assn. of SWAT Personnel-Wisconsin, hosted by the Milwaukee County SO and attended by nearly 200 SWAT-team operatives.

A former street cop, former prosecutor, long-time president of the Illinois Tactical Officers Assn. and a PoliceOne contributor, Chudwin across a rapid-fire, provocative two hours presented graphic illustrations of what can only be called the wimping of American policing, and issued a stirring call for change. In some cases on-scene video drove home the impact.

. A plainclothes officer is being slashed in the face and neck during a ground fight with a knife-wielding suspect. Under life-threatening attack, he hands his gun to another officer because "he's afraid he'll discharge the weapon accidentally" during the struggle. "He gets praised by the media for 'showing restraint,' but what he did makes my skin crawl," Chudwin declares. "Why didn't he shove the muzzle in the suspect's eye and pull the trigger?"

. An offender who has murdered his girlfriend is outdoors in a residential neighborhood firing a gun randomly. He's surrounded by SWAT but the officers take no action other than trying to maintain a loose perimeter, even when he points his revolver directly at them. The standoff drags on through many threats to police and public until he eventually is shot when he closes in on an officer and points the gun at him. When Chudwin asks the officers why they didn't fire earlier, they explain: "Our commander told us not to shoot him." "An outrage!" Chudwin declares. "If you're putting an offender at the top of the list for safety, then you have your priorities screwed up. Why are we catering to the person who created the problem?"

. SWAT officers are offered rapid deployment training by a tactical organization but back away from the concept because they consider it "too dangerous." "We don't run into the muzzle of a machine gun," Chudwin chides, "but we do run into danger every day, and we should be prepared to do it."

MESSAGE FROM THE “PREZ”



It's been said that no man's life or property is safe when the legislature is in session. So to minimize damage to members of the Federation during this meeting of the legislature, we will once more be prowling the halls in St. Paul to make sure our interests are represented.

This year the debate with the most potential impact on police officers in Minneapolis is the fight over Local Government Assistance (LGA), which is state money distributed to cities and towns with no strings attached.

Four years ago, when the state was having financial trouble, the legislature and Governor Pawlenty cut LGA funds. For Minneapolis, less money from the state meant the mayor either had to raise taxes to replace the shortfall or cut programs to save money. This was not a decision that appealed to Mayor RT Rybak and his decision to make devastating cuts to public safety was blamed on LGA cuts.

For the past four years, everywhere he went, every time he spoke RT's refrain was: "We had to cut public safety due to the LGA cuts" and on several occasions the mayor blamed the governor personally.

This year the state has a substantial money surplus. (Amazing what living within your means can do, isn't it?) So the big question at the capital is what should we do with the money? The governor and many of the legislators believe that any LGA money given to Minneapolis should be specifically used for public safety, which sounds like a great idea to me.

Their reasoning is that if the city says LGA cuts forced them to cut public safety — and we saw first-hand how having 170 fewer cops worked out — then any new LGA money should be spent on restoring cuts to public safety and not on politician's pet programs.

But guess what? Now RT doesn't want to be told what to do with the money. It seems that blaming cuts to public safety on reduced LGA money was only a convenient excuse for the mayor. Public safety wasn't a priority for him and the LGA excuse gave him the ability to cut the department and still have political cover.

So today, when there might be an opportunity to adequately fund public safety, he says 'No.'

The question taxpayers and Federation members should be asking is: what will he really do with the money if he won't commit it to public safety? How high does the crime rate have to get before Rybak thinks public safety is a priority? And how much is Rybak's word worth?

How does that go — talk the talk or walk the walk? Stay tuned.

Culture, from page 1

. An active shooter is inside a fast-food restaurant killing people. A SWAT team is ready to make entry or to fire through glass to take him out. A commander en route but 10 miles out orders the officers to stand down until he gets there..A commanding officer instructs his street personnel, "You can't shoot at anyone until you are shot at first".. A chief states that anyone who can't control an aggressive offender with a knife from 5 to 7 feet away without using deadly force should not be a police officer-all examples of "lunacy," Chudwin says.

"That kind of thinking can put you in a black hole you can't get out of. This is the culture we have to get away from. There is no obligation for you to be injured, wounded or murdered" rather than shooting to stop a lethal threat.

Chudwin made clear that he is not advocating the development of rogue officers who pursue vigilante missions on the street. But he does feel that officers and agencies should embrace a greater willingness and readiness to use lawful deadly force in appropriate circumstances.

"Predators are out there, not afraid of us, willing to attack us," said Chudwin, who has had two friends who were murdered on the job. "But officers often back away from aggressively finishing the fight."

Part of the problem, he suggested, is unrealistic training that teaches officers to rely on tactics and equipment that in many real-life confrontations don't work.

Field experience has well established that pepper spray, for example, "won't work against people who are committed and willing to fight to the death." Yet he showed dramatic video of a determined naked man moving threateningly down a city street with a knife after having cut off his own penis. Responding officers attempted-futilely-to control him with endless verbal commands and bursts of OC. Their solution ultimately was to risk their own safety by dog-piling him.

Why waste time and heighten your personal risk "by trying something that cannot work, like pain compliance against a crackhead who can't feel pain?" Chudwin asked. "Why create false expectations of success?"

He deplored the tendency, again often reinforced in training, to over-verbalize. "Show me a Supreme Court case or statute that says you must give verbal warning before

CLIMB FOR A CURE

By Mike Kirchen

On February 10th 25 Minneapolis Police Officers will be racing the Minneapolis Fire Department, St. Paul Police Department and the St. Paul Fire Department up 52 floors of the IDS Center. This will be the 26th annual Cystic Fibrosis Climb for a Cure, but only the third annual Police / Fire challenge to kick-off the event. This years captain, Michael Kirchen and co-captain and recruiting coordinator Lynn Meuwissen have tapped into some of the elite stair climbers on the department.



Mikayla Polski

Minneapolis Fire won the last two years with two firefighters finishing at 6:38. This event is getting bigger each year with more cops and firefighters participating. This year will be the first year that the traveling shovel will be awarded to the champions. This trophy was designed by a Minneapolis artist and will display the badges of all four departments and each year's winner. The teams can be as big as we want; only the top 3 male and 2 female times are counted for the team time. We have 25 cops this year; let's shoot for 35 next year.

This year all the cops from Minneapolis and St. Paul will be wearing the same t-shirts with a picture of Mikayla Polski on the front. Mikayla is the 5 year old daughter of St. Paul Police Officer Mike Polski and she has cystic fibrosis. The front of the shirt will read "Cops For a Cure" and the back will have our respective badges and each of the police department's federation for sponsoring the teams.

Thank you to the Minneapolis Police Federation for splitting the cost with the St. Paul Police Federation for the t-shirts.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Minneapolis Police Department, Park Police Department, U of M Police Department, and the DNR all participated in the Toys for Tots drive this year. Each precinct from Minneapolis brought a squad full of toys and the toys from all of the departments nearly filled one of the tents!



Captain Jim Konrad (MN DNR), Officer Lynn Cronquist, Officer Katie Seitz (U of M), Officer Brandon Kitzerow, Officer Molly Fisher, Sgt. Rick Doll (Park), Officer Keith Rowland (Park), Agent Bill Larson (Park), Officer Tom Lopez, Sgt. Don Jach



CHANGES TO FEDERAL BENEFITS AND WORKERS COMPENSATION

Federal Benefit Amendment to Public Law 94-430. Hometown Heroes Survivors Act of 2003 amends Public law to allow full benefits to officers whose death results from a heart attack or stroke while on duty.

Workers Compensation Minnesota Statute 176.011 Subd. 15 Sec.b; Occupational Disease. This statute allows benefits if death was caused from certain presumed occupational diseases such as undulant fever, myocarditis, coronary diseases such as undulant fever, myocarditis, coronary sclerosis, pneumonia, or an infectious or communicable disease.

Reprinted from LEMA newsletter



Come check out our new line of Pelican Flashlights at the Federation Store! Listed Clockwise: LED Clip On Light \$14, M9 Duty Light \$96, & PM[®] Xenon Light \$25. (Additional flashlights are also available at the Federation Store.)

MBC BLOOD DRIVE

The January 19, 2007 blood drive for Officer Dave Holm was an enormous success! Over 100 people came in to donate the day of the blood drive! Memorial Blood Center was able to register 95 people to donate and was able to collect a total of 75 units of blood! Out of the 75 who donated blood, 57 were new donors. MBC was very excited about the turnout and mentioned that it was one of their more successful blood drives! Thank you to all who participated in the drive and who left Dave messages of encouragement. We will be putting together a scrapbook with all of the kind messages and bringing it to the hospital once Dave is feeling better. If you did not have a chance to donate blood the day of the blood drive and still would like to donate blood in honor of Dave, you can contact Memorial Blood Centers at 1-888-GIVE-BLD or visit their website at WWW.MBC.ORG.



Dave Holm Family Fund

As many of you know, Officer Holm and his wife were involved in a tragic car accident on December 31, 2006. His wife, Mel, died in the accident and Officer Holm was severely burned attempting to save his wife. A fund has been setup to assist with expenses the Holm family will endure during this long recovery process.

Donations can be made to:

The David Holm Family Fund, City-County Federal Credit Union, 3651 Central Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55418

Thanks goes out to everyone for the continued support shown during this incredibly tragic time.

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON



A Special Olympics Polar Plunge will be held for the 1st time in Minneapolis on Lake Calhoun March 3rd. Get your teams together and come join the fun! Or if you don't want to take the plunge, we need volunteers the day of the plunge to assist. Pre register on line or register the day of starting at 11am at Famous Daves at Lake and Hennepin. We plunge at 1430 at Calhoun. Chief Johnson of Minneapolis Park Police will be taking the plunge—dont let him plunge without backup!! Sign up as a team or individually but sign up and help raise money for Special Olympics. Check out the web site at MinnesotaSpecialOlympics.org. Any questions contact Rick Doll at Park PD, Rich Sheldon or Lynn Cronquist at MPD.

Culture, continued from page 2

using deadly force," Chudwin challenged. "There isn't one.

"It's not necessary to talk to somebody when they're trying to murder you. You can do it, but there's no legal obligation to and tactically it's not desirable. There are some offenders you simply can't negotiate with. Yet officers want to take things to the last instant because they have imprinted in their mind 'I don't want to shoot.'"

Reacting properly in threat situations depends on having the right mind-set, Chudwin stressed. "When you go out on the street, the first thing you say when you get in your patrol car should not be, 'Oh, God, I might get sued today.' You really have nothing personally to fear from liability when you follow law, policy and procedure. But fear of liability has led to the murders of police officers.

"If you're more concerned about getting sued than getting murdered, you can't do the job like it needs to be done. You're a threat to yourself and to others."

Regarding deadly force, "you have to know what you can do and when you can do it, and be prepared to do it immediately, without hesitation. If you fail any part of this equation, you will fail on the street." *Culture, continued on page 5*

Culture, continued from page 4

The willingness to emphatically stop a life threat needs to be part of your mind-set off duty as well as on, Chudwin reminded. "Only 25 per cent of officers in some areas carry off duty, and then they carry no extra ammunition," he said in disbelief.

"Have some firearm on you always. You will be some place someday with your family and some antisocial s.o.b. will come up to you and want to cut your throat and take your children away-and you're not going to let him.

"Remember, there is no coming back from the dead. If you understand that, you will come home at night. You may be a little battered but you won't be full of holes because you gave some predator verbal commands rather than shoot him."

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Upcoming Events

February 22nd

**General Membership Meeting,
Federation Hall
Board Nominations**

March 29th

**General Membership Meeting,
Federation Hall
Primary Election, if needed**

April 26th

**General Membership Meeting,
Federation Hall
General Election**

2006 Federation Union & Mutual Dues

**Federation Dues \$750.67
Mutual Dues \$40.00**

CRA & IAD Statements

Just a reminder that prior to giving a statement to internal affairs or CRA you are entitled to the following as stipulated in Section 4.4 of the contract:

Before taking a formal statement from any employee, the City shall provide to the employee from whom the formal statement is sought a written summary of the events to which the statement relates. To the extent known to the City, such summary shall include: the date and time (or period of time if relating to multiple events) and the location(s) of the alleged events; a summary of the alleged acts or omissions at issue; and the policies, rules or regulations allegedly violated. Except where impractical due to the immediacy of the investigation, the summary shall be provided to the employee not less than two (2) days prior to the taking of his/her statement. If the summary is provided to the employee just prior to the taking of the statement, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to consult with a Federation representative before proceeding with the scheduled statement.

For the purpose of this Section 4.4, a "formal statement" is a written, recorded or transcribed record, whether in a narrative form or in response to questions, which is requested to be provided by any sworn employee as part of an investigation of alleged acts or omissions by a sworn employee(s) which may result in the imposition of discipline against any sworn employee(s).



MEMBER COMMUNICATION



Occasionally the Federation would like to send correspondences to our members that we are unable to send over City email. We are asking our members to provide their personal email addresses so we can send email updates out when the need arises. You can email your personal email address to secretary@mpdfederation.com. If you have any questions, contact Bruce Jensen at the Federation.

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FEDERATION STORE FEATURED ITEMS



Ladies Sweatshirt \$45



Baseball Cap \$15



Blue Travel Mug \$12



Ladies' Intimates \$15

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Hooded Sweatshirts & New style sweatshirts are coming soon! New items should be in approximately March 1, 2007!