



SHERIFFS NEWSLETTER

United in Justice

January 2022

Dear Citizens:



A heartfelt letter from Sheriff Nicholas Petitgout

Every County Deputy understands that they may lay down their life for the community they serve.

The frequency at which this is occurring is unprecedented. All law enforcement officers understand the risk as do their families, whether willing or unwilling, they understand. Filled with grief I write you today, concerned for families I have never met. Concerned for my own men and women. Truly concerned for where WE are heading.

I find myself older, hopefully wiser, but none the less deep in thought. Constantly, deep in thought.

Sleepless, deep in thought. Worried for where society is heading.

A Deputy is murdered, brutally murdered, as if one way of phrasing it is somehow worse than the other, helping a motorist a long a dark stretch of interstate. No provocation, an immediate action with no basis, no understanding, and no remorse.

I find myself older, hopefully wiser, but none the less deep in thought. Constantly, deep in thought. Sleepless, deep in thought. Worried for where society is heading. A Deputy is murdered, brutally murdered, as if one way of phrasing it is somehow worse than the other, helping a motorist a long a dark stretch of interstate. No provocation, an immediate action with no basis, no understanding, and no remorse.

We cannot stand idly by and continue to accept this as the new normal in policing. **We do not sign up to be murdered.** We understand that it may happen in some obscure way we understand it, but we do not sign up to be executed along the side of a highway, alone. No one signs up for what we as law enforcement officers have experienced the past few years. Unprovoked violence, ambushed on the most routine of calls. I fear someday soon we will not be able to recruit anyone to do this important job.

The reason you get this long narration from me.

While standing at a recent visitation for a murdered County Deputy a member of the organization, C.O.P.S., said to me that this was their 25th funeral since 2015 in Illinois. 25. Now for, C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police Survivors. They are the angels who come to our communities and put on these massive events, police funerals. Rebuilding the shattered lives of survivors and co-workers affected by line-of-duty deaths. www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org

25.

This struck me. One, would be too many. 25 in Illinois. Since 2015. Not acceptable.

I hope my words move you. All I ask for is concern. Concern, that if this continues. Who will answer your calls for help when we you need it? The previous decade, we had countless men and women ready to join our ranks to serve their communities. The next decade, we might have to beg and incentivize just maintain an operating level of staffing, we hope. I hope for better days to come and pray for the families recently devastated by evil.

If you wish to donate to Concerns of Police Survivors go to their website. If you would like to stop by the

Concerned,
Sheriff Nicholas M. Petitgout
McDonough County

Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)



Please talk to your staff and inquire about who might be interested in participating with Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

Unfortunately, those that have experienced line of duty death know all too well how helpful this group can be to aid you and the family during this horrible time. This needs to be something that they are passionate about and that you as their Sheriff will allow them to commit the time.

Each year, between 140 and 160 officers are killed in the line of duty and their families and co-workers are left to cope with the tragic loss. C.O.P.S. provides resources to help them rebuild their shattered lives. There is no membership fee to join C.O.P.S., for the price paid is already too high.

The Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors is a non-profit organization, which provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line-of-duty as determined by Federal criteria. Illinois C.O.P.S. provides emotional and financial support as well as legal assistance to survivors of fallen officers.

Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors responds after line-of-duty deaths to support the surviving family members. We offer support as long as needed to all survivors. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, support is just a phone call away.

<https://www.ilcops.net/>

"They Protect Us, We Support Them

ISA Store Now Open: Closes Monday, 01/17



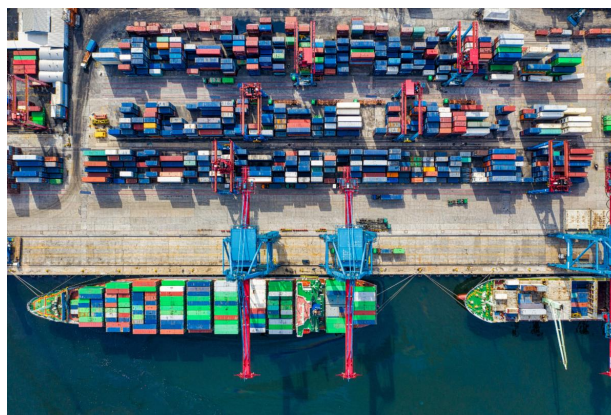
Click on above images to visit the ISA Store

How the Supply Chain Crisis is Impacting Law Enforcement

Written by: Doug Wylie (*original article [here](#)*)

Back when the COVID-19 pandemic first struck, there was the now-infamous run on toilet paper, with Americans scrambling to secure massive stockpiles of the essential product that helps keep the world a better, cleaner place.

Police quartermasters were among the millions of people scrambling to keep the company commode amply furnished with Charmin, perhaps reciting to themselves the old joke about the toilets stolen from the police station leaving cops with "nothing to go on."



But now—two years into this madness and with a handful of complicated vectors factoring into the worsening supply-chain mess—police departments across the country are vexed by shortages of myriad needed supplies from ammunition to apparel, computers to cameras to cars.

No "Bag of Chips"

It's not only the current crisis of goods trapped in shipping containers on ships anchored in waters outside America's largest ports, but manufacturing delays in general that are impacting law enforcement agencies. This is especially true in the shortage of microchips, which has caused production lines for a vast universe of goods to slow to a crawl in some cases and grind to a halt in others.

Beau Duffy—spokesman for the New York State Patrol—says, "The microchip shortage has impacted the agency the most. Body-worn camera procurement—we are in the midst of rolling out BWCs—and our ability to get our new vehicle deliveries are areas where we have seen it the most. Vehicles are in a backorder status, which is causing an increase in vehicle maintenance costs and mileage increases."

Duffy forecasts that there may also soon be delays with acquiring communications equipment, a product category which is heavily reliant on the availability of high-end microchips. Brian Kelly—Facilities and Equipment Lieutenant of the Aurora (CO) Police Department—says that a significant issue is the shortage of vehicles.

"New vehicles are difficult to procure based on manufacturing issues that we are seeing across the country," Kelly says. "Everything else has been fairly simple to obtain, although it just might take slightly longer to arrive."

Unfortunately, there's little Kelly—or pretty much anyone else in his position—can do about the difficulty in obtaining new vehicles other than wait it out.

"We are at the mercy of the automotive manufacturing and not something the police department has much control over," Kelly says.

From Boots to BDUs

The most obvious—and most unfortunate—outcomes of this sudden supply chain crisis in the marketplace for public safety uniforms are cost and availability. Unlike in consumer fashion, where a person may simply choose to not jump onto the latest trend because they're temporality priced out—opting instead to see what the local thrift store has to offer—people who don the uniform have substantially less flexibility.

Rick Levine—Executive Director of the North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)—says, "There's no manufacturer at the moment that relies on either piece goods or finished garments coming in over the water that isn't facing logistics problems. It is just pervasive."

Levine laments, "A law enforcement professional has to have the items to wear that they're required to wear."

Levine says, "It's a little bit like we got caught with our pants down to some extent—excuse the pun—because for so long, we were spoiled. We could move goods around the planet basically for free. Moving product over the water was reliable and the costs were manageable. You go from a container being \$1,500 or \$2,500 to move, and now it's \$25,000 to move. You've got dating issues where it might be for floating for twice as long as it did in the past, and so all of those costs are getting passed on because of the delays."

LaVerne Smith—Manager of the Dallas Police Department Quartermaster Unit—says, "We ran into issues getting core sizes in our uniforms with a previous vendor during 2020, when we were deep into the pandemic. Massive shut down of global operations definitely affected labor, materials, and delivery of items, as our vendor's sources were from out of the country."

Duffy says the New York State Patrol has taken steps to ameliorate the apparel issue and work around uniform shortages and delays in acquiring various items, with winter jackets being the latest items to be delayed.

"Each uniformed member is provided with extra uniforms when they come on, so we have been able to handle the delays," Duffy says. "We are ordering earlier, adapting and moving assets around and across the state to cover any shortages."

Levine points out that when the COVID-19 pandemic began, some agency standards for uniforms were loosened, where a polo shirt may be accepted when heretofore a button-down was required, for example, but even that latitude has its limits.

"We are exploring variations to our uniform equipment," says Duffy of the New York State Patrol.

Made in USA

Some agencies are now benefiting from what may previously have been viewed as something of a limitation. Levine points out that certain law enforcement entities have been operating under the guidelines of the Berry Amendment, which is primarily intended to prevent the United States military from relying on goods made in and/or supplied by foreign national entities.

Smith says that whenever possible, the Dallas Police Department has tried to rely on uniform garments made in the United States.

"We try to use manufacturers and vendors within our country," Smith says, "Especially having experienced delays with customs, distance, restrictions, shortage of labor, increase in costs, and other matters that are globally affecting shipments since the pandemic."

Some agencies not already operating under the Berry Amendment are eyeballing the option with a renewed interest.

Duffy says that due to shortages and delays, the New York State Patrol is "exploring all options, including

additional US-sourced goods where available."

In order to more tightly internal control costs in manufacturing and more nimbly respond to shifting external needs and necessities in the marketplace, most industries have shifted to a "just in time" supply chain management.

"This means we didn't have always a million yards of textiles sitting at our factories," Levine explains. "We were reliant on the mills to be able to deliver the fabrics when we needed them for our production facilities to be able to cut and trim and make the goods."

Now, with a scarcity of everything from fibers to finished fabric, the whole process has been adversely affected.

A Global Issue

We're not the only one with port issues—the global supply chain crisis is just that: global.

Nor is the matter of shortages particularly new. Ammunition acquisition lead times have substantially increased year over year for decades, so most manufacturers ammo saw this current crisis coming and have tried to stay at least somewhat ahead of the worsening curve.

With new automobiles in short supply, law enforcement agencies have been creative in extending the service life of vehicles already in the motor pool.

One way or another, American law enforcement finds a way to prevail. Enduring the supply chain crisis will be no different.

How to Deal with the Media After a Use-of-Force Incident

Kevin Davis—an officer with more than 30 years on the job and author of the book *Use of Force Investigations: A Manual for Law Enforcement*—discusses with POLICE Contributing Web Editor Doug Wyllie how law enforcement agencies can do a better job of dealing with the news media following a use-of-force incident. The days of "no comment" are long since gone and now in the age of the 24-hour news cycle it is incumbent upon the agency to get out in front of the cameras and get out in front of the story.

Click the image below to open video.



Sheriff's Winter Training Conference

Have you registered for ISA's Sheriff's Winter Training Conference?

When: February 12 - 15

Where: Embassy Suites, East Peoria

ISA's Award Winners for the following categories will be announced and presented awards on the evening of February 14th:

- 2021 Deputy of the Year
- 2021 Correctional Officer of the Year
- 2021 Telecommunicator of the Year

To register click [HERE](#).



Illinois Legislative Session Begins



Written by: *ISA Executive Director, Jim Kaitschuk*

We all know how challenging the past year was for all of us, but as we enter into 2022 we do so with what appears to be a change in the winds for our policy makers.

This spring legislative session will be considerably condensed with plans for adjournment by April 9th. However, we all know devastating things can occur in very small windows. We will continue this year to share issues (both good and bad) as they come up through newsletters, but more immediately through our social media sites.

You all have been instrumental in helping to shift the attitude toward the men and women that stand on the thin blue line. I hope that you will continue to do so and weigh in on legislation as we move throughout the spring session.

There will be opportunities for you to not only speak with your legislators but also to fill out witness slips to indicate your position. I am very hopeful that we will see some real positive outcomes from this spring session, but none of this would even be under consideration without the work that all of you have done to show your support for the law enforcement community!

Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022!

LEADERSHIP



A TRUE LEADER HAS THE CONFIDENCE TO STAND ALONE, THE COURAGE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS, AND THE COMPASSION TO LISTEN TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. THEY DO NOT SET OUT TO BE A LEADER, BUT BECOME ONE BY THE QUALITY OF THEIR ACTIONS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR INTENT. IN THE END, LEADERS ARE MUCH LIKE EAGLES...THEY DON'T FLOCK, YOU FIND THEM ONE AT A TIME.



2022 Conference Dates:

Sheriff's Winter Training Conference
February 12 - 15, 2022
East Peoria

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators
April 13- 15, 2022
East Peoria

Jail Medical Summit
August 25, 2022
Peoria

Sheriff Summer Training Conference
September 17 - 20, 2022
East Peoria

Administrative Assistants Training
October 20-22, 2022
TBA

New Sheriff Management Institute
November 13 - 17, 2022



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