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Off-Duty Survival

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WARNING

The following presentation is for law enforcement personnel only. Please do not attempt to copy or share this material with non-law enforcement personnel.



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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- It is understood, that there are many uncontrollable factors that make it impossible to plan for all off-duty contingencies.
- This presentation only contains recommendations and no hard fast rules for conduct.
- Under no circumstances should any recommendation or advice in this presentation supercede department policy, procedure or established tactics.
- Use this presentation as a tool to stimulate discussion and as a means for you to better prepare for a off-duty incident.
- Think of this presentation as a career survival guide for off-duty conduct.

Off Duty Survival



On-duty / Off-duty Priorities

- The on-duty Deputy generally may use force to affect an arrest, whereas the off-duty Deputy's justification shifts to self-defense and protection, not enforcement.
- For this reason the off-duty force continuum is different from the on-duty one. This also means the options for off-duty action become different.
- For example, the likelihood of a Deputy carrying a Baton or Taser off-duty is rather low.
- In the use-of-force continuum, this would create a gap between "hands-on" force (using one's personal defense weapons like hands, fist or feet) and the use of lethal force like a firearm.

Off Duty Survival

What distinguishes between on-duty and off-duty?

- While on-duty, a Deputy Sheriff generally is not required to retreat when met with resistance.
- The on-duty Deputy may use controlling force to overcome opposition.
- Controlling force is defined as the minimal force, above verbal command, required or needed to control a suspect or situation.
- While off-duty, the Deputy's priorities must shift.
- Unless a Deputy is prepared to invoke peace officer powers and affect an arrest, the duty to continue with controlling force stops when retreat is a reasonable option.

Off-Duty Survival – Off & On-Duty Dynamics

- For Example: When an off-duty Deputy is assaulted by someone who knows and recognizes him as a peace officer, the aggressor's crime is assault on a peace officer, not simple assault.
- There are other differences in the dynamics between on and off-duty as well. When calling dispatch off-duty, the Deputy may have to give dispatchers a full assessment of the condition, especially if out of jurisdiction. This takes time.
- They also may have family members or a situation that might emotionally impact the Deputy's logical response at the scene.
- When on duty, backup is a radio call away.
- Additionally, while off-duty you may not have a radio, or your normal officer safety equipment such as a protective vest, handcuffs, or extra ammo.

Off-Duty Survival – “Institutionalization”

“Institutionalization” of Deputies

- When an incident occurs in an officer’s presence, failure to respond creates a role conflict.
- Deputies respond to crimes in progress because society expects them to respond and they expect themselves to respond.
- They are subject to the scrutiny of their peers if they "let the bad guy go."
- This institutionalization is an occupational hazard that the general public often cannot understand and sometimes leads to Deputies becoming involved in a off-duty incident that may have been better handled by being a good witness.
- When you encounter a situation off-duty that seems to require police action, you must **CONSCIOUSLY EVALUATE** whether **YOUR** involvement is necessary or desirable, given the circumstances.
- Ask yourself, how important and urgent is the need for your intervention?

Off-Duty Survival – Survival Tips

Will there really be SERIOUS harm done if you don't intervene?

- Consider that you are likely to be alone (or possibly with your family)
- That you will probably lack important pieces of gear (radio, vest, OC, cuffs)
- That there may be multiple suspects involved (and/or hidden suspects you're unaware of)
- That there may be environmental factors working against you (lack of cover, crowds of civilians, darkness, etc.)
- That your intervention may actually spark an escalation of violence, your best plan of action may be to:
 - A. Go to a safe location and continue to assess the situation
 - B. Call 911
 - C. Gather accurate intelligence and be a good witness until uniformed troops arrive.

Off-Duty Survival – Survival Tips

Remember: You have **NO** “legal” obligation in any jurisdiction to get involved.

- Sheriff’s Department policy states you shall “take action” as deemed “appropriate” on any police matter coming to your attention. Appropriate action, depending on the circumstances, may only require accurate observation and becoming an effective witness.
- Most survival-conscious Deputies have trained themselves to **NOT** intervene off-duty **UNLESS** their life or the life of another innocent party is **IMMINENTLY** in danger. In other words you intercede **ONLY** when deadly force is justified -- not "just" to make an arrest.
- If you do decide you must get involved, try to call 911 or have someone else call 911 to advise that you are an off-duty Deputy Sheriff at the scene. Get them to describe you and your clothing, if possible. This will affect the mind-set of responding officers.

Off-Duty Survival – Survival Tips

- When uniformed cops arrive, have your badge out and visible if you carry your badge off duty (some Deputies carry only their photo credentials). But don't rely on this gesture to provide much, if any, protection. At a distance, in dim light and under high stress, your badge may not be seen. Or it may not be given credibility if the officers don't recognize you personally.
- Some trainers advise to hold your badge next to your gun for the best chance of being seen, since the eyes of responding officers are most likely to go immediately to your drawn firearm. However, you're probably safer to **REHOLSTER** your gun when other officers arrive, unless doing so would put you, them or innocent civilians in jeopardy. Until they sort out who's who, your gun is probably your greatest personal liability in the presence of arriving officers.
- If you have cover, maintain it. You can communicate verbally from there.

Off-Duty Survival – Survival Tips

- Make your hands visible. Having responding officers see that you are unarmed and non-threatening will work to calm them and protect you.
- Verbally identify yourself as a cop -- not once and not in a normal tone of voice, but **REPEATEDLY** and **VERY LOUD**. Keep shouting out: "Don't shoot! Off-duty officer!" until you get acknowledgement and directions as to what you should do. Remember that the noise and excitement of the scene, combined with stress-induced auditory blocking, may prevent responding officers from hearing you initially.
- When commands are issued, follow them promptly and completely. Expect to be treated like a suspect until your Law Enforcement status can be verified. Be prepared to be handcuff until things can be sorted out.
- And finally, the most important rule of all: If you have a gun in your hand, **NEVER, EVER** turn toward an armed on-duty officer.

Department Policy – Off-Duty Police Action

LASD POLICY – OFF-DUTY INCIDENTS

Deputy personnel, although technically off duty, shall take action as deemed appropriate on any police matter coming to their attention. Appropriate action, depending on the circumstances, may require only accurate observation and becoming an effective witness or informant.

The Penal Code gives specified law enforcement officers peace officer authority anywhere in the state as to a "public offense committed or which there is probable cause to believe has been committed in his presence and with respect to which there is immediate danger to person or property, or of the escape of the perpetrator of such offense." Therefore, unless the off-duty officer has observed the commission of a crime and there is an immediate danger to person or property, or he has received prior approval from the chief law enforcement officer of that jurisdiction, he should not take police action in the capacity of a peace officer, when he is outside the jurisdiction of this Department. He should notify the police agency having jurisdiction.

Arrests made while off-duty, within the State of California, but outside the jurisdiction of this Department, which result in civil action will be defended by the County Counsel if the Department procedures listed below are followed.

In all situations wherein Deputy personnel take positive police action in any off-duty incident, Deputy personnel shall adhere to the following procedures: Identify themselves as peace officers before taking any police action, safety permitting, Make an arrest if the elements of an arrest are present and a legal arrest can be made, Immediately notify their Unit Commander or ranking supervisor on-duty at their Unit by telephone and verbally advise him of the situation when police action is taken, and prepare appropriate written reports.

Off-Duty Survival – Do's & Don'ts



- If you choose to carry a firearm, make sure it is concealed from view.
- Always carry extra ammo and only use approved department ammunition.
- Always carry your concealed firearm in a holster and on safe.
- Do not leave your weapon in your car or any other non-secured area.
- Always have your badge and Sheriff I.D. with you when you are armed.
- Only carry a firearm you have qualified with.
- Carry your firearm in a place that you can access it quickly and safely. Consider a quick release “fanny pack” to carry your off-duty firearm. Although no one particular clothing item says “cop” more than a fanny pack, pound for pound it is the best way to have ready access to your firearm and other off-duty items like badge, I.D., handcuffs, cell phone, extra ammo, and pepper spray.

Off-Duty Survival – Do's & Don'ts



- When communicating to others, use plain English, not Sheriff's codes.
- Since you will not be wearing a vest, be especially vigilant for cover.
- Consider your level of physical fitness and use of force skills prior to action.
- If you are going to take action, call for help first if possible and wait for assistance.
- Never carry your badge and ID in the same wallet you use for off-duty business.
- If possible, have a plan in place before you act.
- Always think defensively, be prepared to retreat as an option.
- Use the fact you have not been recognized as a cop to your tactical advantage.
- Do not work, shop, or patrol in the same neighborhood where you live.

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Off-Duty Survival – Do's & Don'ts



- Do quickly and repeatedly identify yourself to arriving officers.
- Understand that arriving Officer's may want to handcuff you until they sort things out, so stand-by to follow orders and cooperate to the fullest.
- Tell your family and friends not to identify you as a cop in public.
- When confronting someone under the influence, do not identify yourself as a cop unless you are prepared to make an arrest if it gets out of hand.
- Avoid direct intervention if the incident only involves a property crime. Be a good witness.
- Do not visibly carry your weapon when you are in civilian attire.
- Do carry a cell phone with you off-duty and have it speed dialed to the desk of the local Police Department.

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Off-Duty Survival – Do's & Don'ts



- Carry a restraining device with you when you are armed.
- If you do not have a restraining device, consider the use of clothing items like a belt, tie, sock, or jacket to temporarily restrain a suspect. Consider tying the suspect's shoe laces together, pulling the suspect's jacket down behind his back, or removing the shoes entirely as a means to help contain your suspect.
- Do not wear any clothing items such as t-shirts that have law enforcement logos or events in public.
- Do not visibly wear any law enforcement uniform items while driving your car.
- Do not have any license plate frames or stickers on you or your family vehicles that make reference you are a cop, such as "KMA-628" or a "thin blue line" sticker.
- Understand that the element of surprise is one of the strongest advantages you have.
- Be aware the incident you may enter may have hidden multi-suspects.

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Off-Duty Survival – Do's & Don'ts



- When confronted with a road rage incident, back off and be a good witness.
- Never show your gun to another driver to command respect.
- Do not let pride and respect issues drag you into a off-duty incident. Be prepared to just walk away.
- Carry the right “mind-set” when off-duty.
- Constantly scan your surroundings and be aware of what is going on around you. Try to identify early on potential trouble.
- And finally, remember the following adages from your academy;

“Have the will to survive and never give up”
“Stay ready and you don’t have to get ready”
“If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail.”

Off-Duty Survival – Carrying a Gun Off-Duty

There are three different philosophies in regards to off-duty firearm carry:

1. Never carry
2. Optional carry
3. Always carry.

- The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department makes it a personal choice for their Deputies to decide to carry a firearm off-duty or not.

- The never carry option discredits some of the basic reasons Deputies are what they are. Being prepared to defend yourself or others at all times definitely has its advantages.

- A gun may not be the right tool for every situation, but it certainly is the only tool for some situations.

- Be advised that in 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Safety Act to amend title 18, of the United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns. It is now legal for sworn peace officers, both active and retired to carry concealed weapons in all fifty states.

Off-Duty Survival – Type of Weapon

Carry the most effective weapon the wardrobe allows

- Deputies should comply with department policy in every way. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department allows for a range of weapon choices, the gun that fires the most effective caliber should be chosen.
- If the wardrobe allows for a duty-sized weapon, carry the duty weapon. If the situation requires a smaller weapon, the priority should be adjusting the wardrobe to the gun, not the gun to the wardrobe.
- A weapon with a similar manual of arms (i.e. automatic) to our duty weapon is a smart choice since its operation will be more familiar to you in a panic situation.
- Another thing to consider. When you arrive or depart from work to get to your vehicle, do not carry your firearm in your hand or visibly in your waistband?
- Workplace violence is on the rise, and no matter how popular you may think you are, there will always be somebody who does not recognize you and may take action that could result in a tragic accident.

Off-Duty Survival – Practice With Your Weapon

Practice with the weapon carried

- Deputies should fire their off-duty weapon on a regular basis, not just during qualification three times a year.
- Be aware that your sight picture will vary from gun to gun.
- It is imperative the off-duty Deputy be able to shoot effectively with his choice of weapon.
- If the deployment or equipment is unfamiliar, the method of carry is ineffective.



Off-Duty Survival - Training

- Training for off-duty concepts must include the psychological trauma inflicted by not acting.
- For example, the off-duty Deputy Sheriff in a bank teller line witnessing a robbery in progress might be able to consciously rationalize the fact that the robber took only money and did not cause any injuries.
- Training prior to this incident might be able to ease the emotional turmoil that follows from not drawing his gun.
- Training also must include methods of carry and how to recognize others who may be armed.
- It is important that Deputies know how to completely conceal their weapons and how to discreetly carrying them.
- For example, it may be appropriate to have an overcoat over a .45, but inappropriate in an area where everyone else is wearing shorts and T-shirts.

Spotting a hidden handgun

Conspicuous Clothing

Garments worn to conceal weapons often appear odd, mismatched, or out of season, and can actually draw attention to a person trying to avoid scrutiny. A closer look may reveal movements or other characteristic signs of a hidden handgun.

Jacket Fits Unevenly

One side hangs lower than the other, and swings like a pendulum with each step



Hand Rests on Gun

Hand constantly feels for the gun through clothing



Holster Bulges

A holstered gun appears as a lump when arms are extended or when the body bends at the waist



Styles Don't Match

Oversized or mismatched coat seems incompatible with other clothing



Clothes Don't Suit Weather

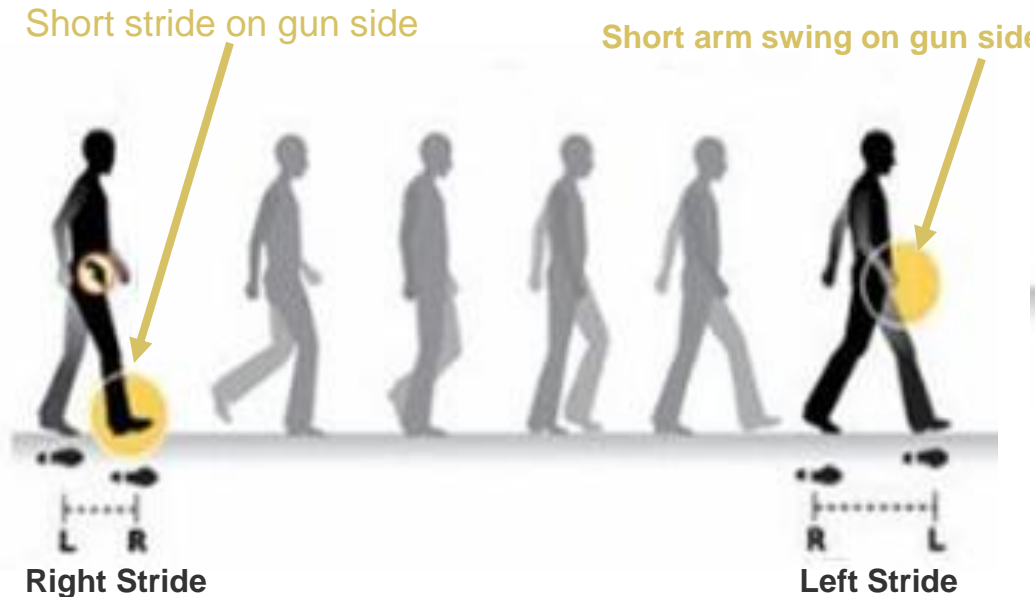
A coat is open in cold weather for quick access to a gun...or closed in hot weather to conceal one

Spotting a hidden handgun

Asymmetrical Gait

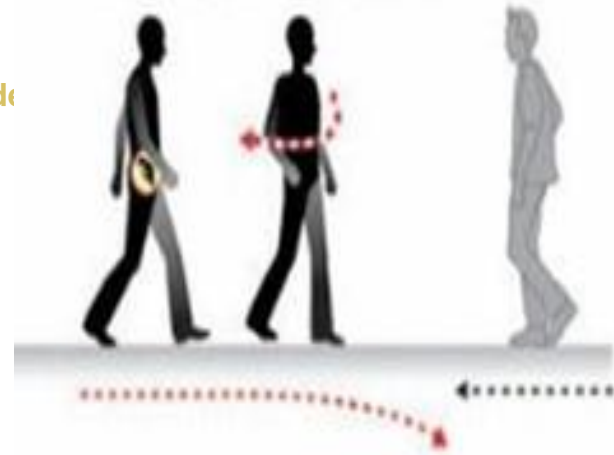
A gun in a right-hand pocket or tucked into the right side of the waistband may hinder leg movement on that side, making the right stride shorter than the left.

A slightly clipped arm swing may also signal a hidden gun; the forearm on the gun side will tend to stay close to the body, instinctively guarding the weapon.



Upper Body Shift

When approached from the front, a person with a hidden gun will instinctively turn the gun side of his body away from the person approaching, and may veer to that side to avoid a face-to-face encounter. He is also likely to put his arm in toward his body on the gun side.

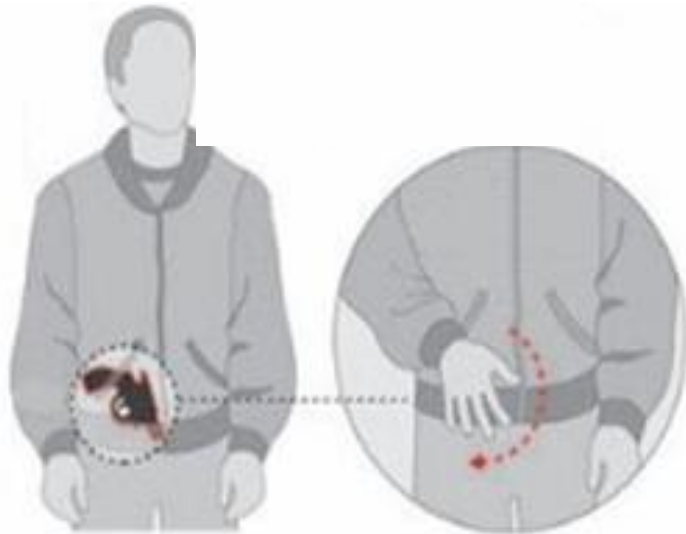


Spotting a hidden handgun

A Quick Adjustment

A gun's weight is distributed unevenly, with more of its weight in the grip than in the barrel.

Vertical motion – like descending stairs or stepping onto a curb – tends to shift the barrel upward. A quick, circular movement of the hand or forearm adjusts the gun's position.



Gun Hidden Under Jacket Hand Repositions Gun

Running while Armed

When running or moving quickly, a person concealing a gun is likely to brace the weapon with a arm or hand.



Gun's original
position in waistband



Grip slips
downward; barrel rises

Off-Duty Survival – Less Lethal Choices



Consider less-lethal choices

- Carrying a less lethal weapon on your person off-duty will give you additional options.
- The trick to using a less-lethal option such as pepper spray, is to deliver the payload within a minimum timeframe of telegraphing one's intent.
- Initially the Deputy needs to look around to insure collateral damage is minimized. Then the pepper spray needs to be deployed invisibly.

Example: Imagine an off-duty Deputy in his car. The Deputy pulls up into the parking lot of a shopping mall and notices a person acting suspiciously in the parking lot. The man appears to be looking into parked cars for items of value. This man sees the off-duty Deputy and walks directly towards him. There is nothing in his conduct that signals an attack is imminent. Perhaps the man is going to ask for directions or in a worst case scenario, he has targeted you for a carjacking. At what point, if at all would you want to access your weapon?

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Off-Duty Survival – Less Lethal Choices

Consider less-lethal choices

- The prepared off-duty Deputy should already be planning for the worst.
- Does he have an exit strategy, has he reviewed the location of his gun or pepper spray for possible quick retrieval and use?
- Are his keys positioned to quickly start-up the car and remove himself from possible harm?
- Is the Deputy ready to give a verbal challenge?
- The nature of that verbal challenge should be capable of screening what the suspect's next move will be.
- This is why what you say is just as important as to how you say it.
- Being able to anticipate and prepare for all contingencies is a key to off-duty survival.

Off-Duty Survival – Language is Important



- Considering the previous example, using the correct language is very important.
- If the person's intentions are unknown and there is time to deliver a verbal challenge, the challenge should be something like, "I don't know you. Do you mind stepping back a little?"
- This is a softer approach to the on-duty command, "Don't move."
- Commands that require an immediate response from the Deputy begin with a hard consonant. Hard consonant orders like "Don't move," "Get down" and "Drop that gun" are much more effective than soft consonant orders like "Show me your hands."
- "Don't make me shoot you" is not only a good abrupt command, it is also more legally defensible than "I will shoot you." In the former, it is implied that something the suspect has done has caused the Deputy to shoot.
- Also, language which includes consequences of use of force should never be used. For example, "This is going to hurt" or phrases that allude to killing, dying or pain should not be part of the vocabulary.

Off-Duty Survival – Language is Important

- "Call the police" is also a hard consonant command. This is an excellent method of letting the potential witnesses know that you will remain at the scene when the uniformed officers arrive.
- Subconsciously, bystanders process this by thinking this must be the good guy because he is calling for the police.
- There are certain times when language should not be used.
- It is usually not advisable to warn someone before deploying chemical irritants.
- If one has to communicate they are spraying, the situation may have already deteriorated.
- Deploy and spray quickly. Render aid and apologize, if necessary, later.

Off-Duty Survival – Use your Radar



Use the Radar

- Use your “cop radar.” It all boils down to this: an attitude of constant vigilance will significantly reduce your vulnerability to an attack.
- While not true in all cases, some victims communicate crime-promoting signals prior to the attack.
- This is one of the reasons a veteran Deputy often has to be retrained in order to do plainclothes work. Their constant state of vigilance prevents them from looking at the ground or allowing people to walk up to them without setting off the "safe distance" radar.
- This radar is perfectly fine while walking to one's car in the mall parking lot. However, it will never do if the plainclothes officer wishes to convince the person under surveillance that an arrest team will appear from nowhere when signaled.

Off-Duty Survival – Use your Radar



Use the Radar

- Veteran Deputies learn to quickly assess people by looking at them, evaluate the cover in a given location, observe everyone's hands and eyes, monitor facial expressions, and filter a person's language for the true content of their words.
- Additionally, Deputies learn to exchange subtle signals to others they work with.
- The other part of using the radar is the fact that Deputies need to maintain a situational awareness in order to identify other assailants.
- When a situation reaches critical mass, tunnel vision will have a tendency to preclude other possible threats.

Off-Duty Survival – Self Defense



Self-defense

- Besides vigilance, the most powerful element of self-defense is surprise.
- When attacked, if the "victim" returns an audacious, violent and unexpected response, the tables will be turned.
- This is as appropriate in an on-duty as an off-duty situation.
- A large percentage of law enforcement officers injured or murdered in the arrest process did not apply initial controlling force effectively.
- This concept is appropriate for off-duty also.
- The Deputy must quickly overcome, not meet, resistance in a manner that completely neuters the threat.

Off-Duty Survival – Be a Good Witness

Be a good witness

- Is off-duty intervention the only choice?
- Act only if the situation demands an armed response. Otherwise, be a good witness.
- The scale of measuring an emergency situation will never be linear. That is, in every situation all participants must judge whether it is time to use deadly force or not.
- Deputies also should be aware of situations where one must consider the balance of utility and exigency.
- If the trip for milk at midnight places the off-duty Deputy in a position where he would be recognized or threatened, eat toast and jam for breakfast instead.

Off-Duty Survival – Dial 911



- Officers generally have a significant amount of training on how to respond to calls and what they are supposed to do at calls.
- Contingency training should include how to call 911 in case of an emergency.
- Once connected you should quickly identify yourself as an off-duty Deputy Sheriff.
- Everyone should be trained to begin the call with the location of the incident.
- This will insure that if the call is interrupted, at least something will be dispatched to the area.
- The nature of the call maybe unknown to the officers arriving, but help will arrive.

Off-Duty Survival – Dial 911

- Other components of your call should include the nature of the call, description, number of suspects, vehicles, weapons and a description of what you are wearing.
- For example, "this is Deputy Williams, I am off-duty, I am at (location) and I need to report a robbery in progress." If the call is interrupted at this point, officers are already being deployed.
- Most officers have training in how to provide descriptions of suspects. It is important for them to be trained in remembering to describe themselves so that they are not mistaken for the bad guy by arriving officers.
- Deputies should never hang up on dispatch if it appears the call will be interrupted.
- Setting the phone down and letting dispatchers listen may allow dispatchers to gather valuable intelligence from the scene.

Off-Duty Survival – Family Training

Make and practice an exigency plan with family members

- Deputies should discuss with their families the types of situations unique to their occupation.
- These discussions should include, "Crime in progress," "Someone recognized me while I was off-duty" and "I need to report to work now" drills.
- Families should establish and know the signal system that tacitly says, "Please separate from me and call help."
- Family members should be instructed to avoid getting involved if possible.

Off-Duty Survival – Cell Phones



Always carry a Cell Phone

- If you witness a crime or are directly involved in a off-duty incident you will need to communicate your need for assistance with the local Police.
- Realize that calling “911” on your cell phone will normally put you in contact with the California Highway Patrol Dispatch Center.
- They in turn will need to figure out which law enforcement agency is responsible for the jurisdiction you are in.
- Better to have your local Police Department’s desk number already speed dialed into your cell phone for the jurisdictions that you frequent so you can expedite their assistance.

Off-Duty Survival – Identify Thyself



Identify, identify, identify

- On an emergency call, anyone not wearing a uniform or displaying a badge will be considered a threatening piece of the puzzle until properly identified.
- This is another important concept: until identified, Deputies will be considered "a person with a gun" as opposed to "Deputy with a gun."
- Off-duty Deputies should be educated not to argue with or point weapons in the general direction of arriving Deputies.
- They should allow uniformed Deputies to restore order, regardless of their rank or duty assignment.
- All off-duty encounters should include the off-duty Deputy repeating the mantra, "Off-duty Deputy Sheriff, don't shoot."
- This should be repeatedly announced, regardless of whether the off-duty Deputy can see others present or not.

Off-Duty Survival – Identify Thyself

Identify, identify, identify

- No one should carry a firearm without a badge and/or Sheriff Identification.
- Innovative methods of carrying a badge should be considered.
- A flat badge worn around the neck can be deployed quickly and in a less threatening manner in high-risk situations.
- One method that aids in off-duty survival is the dummy wallet.
- Deputies should carry their badge and ID in a wallet separate from the one they open to pay their restaurant check or utility bill.
- All of your Sheriff credentials, including business cards, go into the badge wallet.
- This practice may prevent forcing your hand during a personal crime like a robbery.

Off-Duty Survival – Personnel Affairs

- As a Law Enforcement Officer, you are under threat simply by the definition of your job.
- There are individuals out there that want to cause you harm simply because they hate cops.
- These can be people you arrested, dealt with, gang members, or street criminals in general.
- If these individuals find out who you are or where you live, you and your family may be in danger.
- As such, you should make every effort to keep your occupation confidential, except to those you trust and those who have a need to know.

Off-Duty Survival – Personnel Affairs

- Your mail and magazine subscriptions should not reference you as a Peace Officer.
- If you need to receive professional related correspondence, have it sent to your work address or to a P.O. Box if it is not job related.
- If your contacts know you are a law enforcement officer, such as the dry cleaners or tailors, make sure you use your agency address and phone number as a point of contact.
- Regarding the use of off-duty business cards, you should have them printed with your name and cell phone number only.
- You should never reference your home address or home phone on the card.

Off-Duty Survival – Personnel Affairs

- Be advised that when you use agency communication devices, such as cell phones and pagers, you may be transmitting caller ID Information about yourself and or agency.
- Additionally, you should set-up your personal communication devices to avoid disclosing your own identity.
- For example, do not set your answering machine to announce “You have reach the Jones Residence...”
- Better to state, “no one can come to the phone, please leave a message”.
- And finally, make sure you sign up for caller ID with your local phone service and request that your identification remain confidential.

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 1

The following is based on a true incident:

Upon exiting his car at a neighborhood liquor store, a rookie off-duty Deputy Sheriff came in contact with three Hispanic gang members. One of the gang members recognized him as a Deputy Sheriff who worked the jail. The off-duty officer stated they were mistaken and walked into the liquor store to complete his business. While inside the store, the Deputy saw the gang members return to their car and retrieve two baseball bats. The gang members raced into the store and rushed toward the Deputy saying something about how they were going to “give out some of their own criminal justice.” The Deputy pulled out his own five shot off-duty revolver and pointed it at the approaching gang members. The Deputy yelled for the gang members to stop, but they kept approaching. The Deputy, fearing that his own weapon would be taken from him and used against him fired off five shots into a adjacent wall and threw his weapon under a rack of potato chips. The Deputy then fought back using his hands and feet until he was knocked unconscious. Fortunately for the Deputy he was not killed and later fully recovered from his ordeal.

Question? 1.What if anything would you have done differently?

2.Was deadly force authorized in this incident?

3. Could this have been prevented?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 2

The following is based on a true incident:

A off-duty Deputy visited a bank to conduct some financial business. While standing in line waiting for a teller, a armed bank robber came into the bank and demanded everyone lay on the ground and to not move. The Deputy and other bank patrons complied and laid on the ground. The bank robber then went to the front of the line and demanded cash from the teller at gun point. The Deputy saw that the robber's attention was focused on the teller and thought it would be a good time to intervene and stop the robbery. The Deputy stood-up, withdrew his handgun, identified himself as a Deputy Sheriff and demanded the robber to lay down his weapon. Just then a hidden accomplice who was disguised as a bank patron shot the Deputy from behind and fatally killed the Deputy.

- Question?
- 1.What if anything would you have done differently?
 - 2.Was deadly force authorized in this incident?
 3. Could this have been prevented?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 3

The following is based on a true incident:

A off-duty Deputy was out shopping at a indoor enclosed shopping mall. While looking at merchandise in one of the stores, he heard several gun shots and a lot of screaming and panic coming from the main corridor directly outside the store. He immediately ran to the front of the store and saw a man with a gun chasing another man through the mall. Both men were running his way. The off-duty officer drew his weapon and aimed it at the man with the gun and shouted “freeze.” The man with the gun spun around and looked at the off-duty officer. When the off-duty officer saw the man with the gun spin around in his direction he became in fear of his life and fired two rounds at the man with the gun. One of two rounds fatally struck the man with the gun in the head, killing him instantly. The man being chased continued to run and disappeared into the mall parking lot. After a short investigation, it was later learned that the man with the gun was actually another off-duty officer from another agency who had witnessed a jewelry store robbery and was in pursuit of one of two robbery suspects.

Question? 1.What if anything would you have done differently?

2.Could this have been prevented?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 4

The following is based on a true incident:

A off-duty Deputy visited a small business to check-in on his fiancée. The Deputy was carrying his Sheriff's photo identification, but not his off-duty weapon. Suddenly, two robbers entered the business and directed everyone at gun point to lay down on the floor. The robbers then proceeded to take money from the cash register and demanded that all the patrons give up their valuables, including their purses and wallets. The robbers removed the off-duty Deputy's wallet and noticed his Sheriff I.D. in the wallet. The robbers became extremely upset and stated how much they hated cops. Then one of the robbers shot and killed the Deputy.

Question? 1.What if anything would you have done differently?

2.Could this have been prevented?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 5

The following is based on a true incident:

Two off-duty officers were driving on the freeway conducting their own personal affairs. At one point, one officer cut off the other officer which resulted in a “tit-for-tat” road rage type confrontation. The two officers did not know one another, but as they continued to try to “one-up” the other, they both became increasingly hostile and upset. At one point, Officer A showed a single bullet to Officer B. In response, Officer B pulled out his gun and showed it to Officer A. It is not known if he actually pointed it at Officer A. Nevertheless, Officer A perceived that gesture as an immediate threat to his own safety and pulled out his own gun and fired at Officer B, fatally wounding that officer.

- Question?
- 1.What if anything would you have done differently?
 - 2.Could this have been prevented?
 3. Was deadly force authorized?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 6

The following is based on a true incident:

A newly assigned Deputy would routinely carry his firearm tucked in his waistband as he came to and from work. The firearm was visible to anyone who passed by and no badge or ID was worn. The Deputy worked at a large county jail that had over 1500 employees. Just a year earlier, a civilian worker entered a nearby building and shot and killed three fellow workers in a act of workplace violence.

The Deputy would park his car in a nearby parking structure and walk approximately 300 yards to his work location where he would change into his uniform and secure his firearm. One day while walking to his work location in civilian attire, the Deputy with his firearm tucked into his waistband was challenged by a Sergeant who did not recognize the Deputy. The Deputy was directed to assume a felony prone position until his identity could be verified.

- Question?
- 1.What if anything would you have done differently?
 - 2.Could this have been prevented?
 3. Was deadly force authorized?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 7

The following is based on a true incident:

A off-duty Deputy was out shopping with his five year old daughter. While in the parking lot outside a local strip mall, two armed robbers rushed out of a liquor store with their guns in clear view. The Deputy directed his daughter to get down low and stay behind a nearby parked car. The Deputy then took out his five shot .38 caliber revolver (no additional ammo) and while using the parked vehicle for cover, identified himself as a Deputy Sheriff and for the robbers to “drop their weapons.” The robbers immediately turned toward the off-duty Deputy and began firing. The Deputy returned fire until he was out of ammo. At some point during the fire fight, the Deputy’s daughter was struck and killed by a ricochet round. The robbers were able to get away.

- Question?
- 1.What if anything would you have done differently?
 - 2.Could this have been prevented?

Off-Duty Survival – Scenario Training

Scenario # 8

The following is based on a true incident:

A Deputy purchased a home in the same city where he patrolled. The Deputy purchased the home specifically to be close to his work. The Deputy would also occasionally go to his home in his radio car to retrieve his lunch and other items during his shift. Although he never officially introduced himself as a Deputy Sheriff to his neighbors, the neighborhood quickly spread the word that “a cop lived in that house.”

After a few months, he was confronted while off-duty by a gang member he had arrested at a local fast food restaurant. Additionally, several of his neighbors routinely sought him out while he was at home off-duty and asked him to speak to a neighbor who played his music too loud. They also sought legal advice about family members who had a run in with the law. The Deputy, trying to be a good neighbor, always tried to answer their questions despite his liability concerns and volunteered to speak to the loud neighbor down the street. After a few contacts over several months, the loud neighbor filed a official complaint with the Deputy's Watch Commander complaining of harassment and rude behavior.

- Question?
- 1.What if anything would you have done differently?
 - 2.Could this have been prevented?



If you have any questions or comments regarding this presentation, please contact Deputy John Williams at (213) 893-5171 or at jdwillia@lasd.org, thank you.

The End