

LAW and ORDER

Police Technology on Display

by Kevin Gordon

The vendor exposition at last September's IACP convention in Miami was filled with every law enforcement product imaginable. While it is obviously impossible to report on all of the products, there were some that really stood out to me. My criteria is simple. I am looking for a new product, or new use of an existing product, that can benefit an agency, an officer, or the profession in general. Not all new technology involves computers or is digital in nature.

I am also partial to items that can benefit the average-size department. According to FBI statistics, 95% of the 18,500 police agencies have less than 100 officers, about 80% of the departments have 25 officers or less, and 50% have 10 officers or less. That defines the typical department, and I'm always looking for products that they can use.

Jivasoft

Anyone in administration realizes how much time is spent dealing with the work schedule. How often have you sat down to make a needed change on a schedule and find yourself spending twice as much time as you expected on it. In my experience, this is even more time consuming in the smaller agency 10-100 officers, which is also the more typical department. Certainly, larger agencies have more personnel to schedule but they usually also have someone who can devote the needed time to the task.

The administrator tasked with scheduling in a smaller agency usually has numerous other responsibilities with scheduling being an added "bonus." The smaller the agency, the more impact the sudden absence of one or two officers can make, often requiring the entire schedule to be redone at least for a few days. Jivasoft provides not only a police schedule software called On Duty, but a second product called Xtra Duty.

The On Duty software manages every aspect of on duty scheduling. In addition to scheduling, it covers roll calls, leave benefits, attendance, roster preparation, and overtime tracking. This multi area coverage keeps you from double and sometimes triple data entry that some departments require because of separate scheduling and leave modules, for example.

As with any software, the initial set up may take a little time entering your agency particulars as well as personnel info. But once set up, On Duty can permit you to reorganize your entire agency in a matter of minutes if needed. Jivasoft realizes the limited budgets of smaller departments and can even provide an On Duty Lite to agencies with less than 50 officers. The Lite version has all the scheduling advantages of the full product except it does not accrue leave time.

The sister product, Xtra Duty, covers off duty employment. It simplifies all that extra duty that is run through the police department. The data entry is simple and it allows you to enter your agency overtime rules. This also protects you from claims of favoritism by assisting in keeping the overtime fair and impartial.

Xtra Duty can provide payroll reports generated by outside employment if you pay the officers directly. Administrative fees can be included and professional invoices printed to ensure you collect what is owed to the agency, a far cry from a letter or fill in the blank form saying you owe us "X" hours at "X" rate that is commonly used by many small departments.

Both softwares are secure and allow you to limit users or limit who has access to what. It also can provide audit trails of who changed what, when the change occurred, etc. Your data is safe and licensing costs are based on the number of employees, not the number of workstations. Set up is easy and you can use drop down menus or point and click.

Seeing is believing and a free demo kit is available so you can view it before purchasing. Jivasoft also has a ShiftBuilder software available that helps design shifts for your agency. [Steck BigEasy Lockout Tool](#)

Any officer who has been asked to open a locked vehicle knows the frustration involved. It seems each department has that one officer who has the knack. The rest of us just go fishing! We take that slim piece of metal and carefully slide it down into the door, knowing how easy it is to disconnect the wires or linkage. We are fishing since we can't see anything and we hope we don't damage anything. Normally after several unsuccessful minutes have passed, we start, let's say, becoming more aggressive with the tool because now it's personal.

Steck's BigEasy may be the answer for your department. Because of the issues of damaging vehicles many departments have either quit doing lock outs entirely or have limited the vehicles they will open, such as only vehicles with a small child inside. But we will probably never be out of the car door opening business all together. Since most of us never had a Lock Opening 101 class and learn by trial and error, the BigEasy removes all the guesswork, as all the movement is in full view and it is fast and easy.

No tool enters the door panes so there is no concern about disconnecting linkage or wires. Steck, out of Dayton, OH has been manufacturing tools since the 1940s, specializing in innovative tools for the automotive repair technician. A lockout tool for locksmiths, automotive repair professionals, and law enforcement is a natural. Steck claims the BigEasy can open 98% of all cars and truck. As I have personally used the BigEasy, I accept that.

The BigEasy is a 56" long rod that enters the vehicle in the doorjamb area. You insert starter wedge in the door and then insert and inflate the EasyWedge. This gives you enough room to insert the BigEasy and actuate the lock button. Everything is in full view resulting in no training needed. It also cost about half of what some other lock out tools run. They only down side is the 56" length, but that's what trunks are for!

Doron Precision Systems

While the service weapon is a high liability item, it pales compared to the squad car. We use the car every day and formally train with so little. This lack of training is generally due to cost. No typical average American department can afford a driving simulator but that doesn't make their importance any less. More and more departments and training programs are combining budgets to acquire such needed equipment, and the Doron Law Enforcement 550LE Interactive Driving Simulation System is one to look at.

Doron Precision Systems is among the leaders in driving simulation, being in the business for over 30 years. They have over 100 Law Enforcement simulators installed and have over 25,000 simulation systems worldwide with over 10 million drivers trained. Quite simply, simulators are what they do.

Simulators come in two general kinds, interactive and semi-interactive. With an interactive simulator, the driver can see and feel the results of the driving actions. No pun intended, but it is a two way street. The display responds to the driver's actions and the driver responds to the stimuli. This driver operated simulated car, driving in a simulated environment, is usually referred to as a universe. With a semi-interactive simulator, the driver responds to the stimuli but the stimuli don't respond to the driver's actions. Obviously the interactive is the better system and the 550LE is just that, an interactive system.

The advances in the environment are amazing. If you have never sat in a simulator or haven't been in one since driver's education days, you need to try one. You have to experience it to realize how realistic it is. In the phrase of today, it's not your dad's simulator. The unit replicates the squad car driving compartment. It has ABS brakes, a tilt wheel, take down and alley lights, emergency lights, and a two radio. It has a fully functional console and the two-way radio has a dispatcher, the instructor.

The 550LE displays are CGI real-time visual, a superior quality realistic color display. Get this, real time mirror images are synchronized and imbedded in the side and front view images. Doron's TrueSteer™ is a digital steering system that provides realism to road surface and conditions. You feel like you are

driving.

As you drive you encounter other cars, pedestrians, obstacles, other real life items that you would encounter in the real world. As in a real vehicle, you must pay attention to the gauges, scanning them and reacting properly to areas such as fuel, engine temperature, and tire blow outs. The environment can be controlled by the instructor and includes ice, rain, snow, sun glare, and fog.

Your "Virtual World" comes with rural areas, industrial, suburban, urban areas, interstate highways, and training courses. The rural areas have everything you would expect including railroad crossings, tunnels, and road grades. Suburban areas have detailed neighborhoods with playgrounds and school areas. Folks are animated, smoke and fire simulated, and you can even read the license plates. You may be joined in your workday by other responding emergency response vehicles such as fire and ambulance to add to your coordinated response experience!

The 550LE comes preloaded with a library of California POST certified scenarios. In addition to the 82 scenarios, additional scenarios are available if special training requirements are needed. An optional Scenario Developer™ allows easy modification of existing scenarios or creation of new scenarios. Up to four cabs can be linked to enhance the real time scenario.

PriorityStart 12 Volt Pro SP

The PriorityStart, is automatic computerized voltage disconnect system that protects your battery. While it isn't new as it has been around for about eight years, it is constantly being improved and the gear drive system has been redesigned for 2005. The unit cannot save a bad battery but it can prevent the typical battery drain that keeps the engine from starting, saving in aggravation, tow bills, and so on.

With the constant addition of electronic equipment to emergency vehicles, the PriorityStart continues to gain popularity. As we have all experienced, just leaving a simple device turned on may result in a dead battery. The sudden loss of one or two vehicles may be an inconvenience to a larger department but it can be a crisis to a small agency that many only have four or five cars. The down time, wasted man hours combined with the cost of road calls, can quickly add up. With the MDTs, radios, computers, digital cameras, GPS, and other electronic equipment, damaging voltage spikes are also an issue. The PriorityStart Pro SP protects against such voltage spikes.

So officially how does it work? It is a "small, computer chip driven, electro mechanical device with a bi-directional motor and a 10 gear system that delivers 243 to 1 gear drive ratio and closes with 75 pounds of linear force." As complicated as that may sound, installation is very easy and can be completed in less than 15 minutes.

It can fit either the side post or top post battery. You simply attach the positive cable to the top of unit, attach the cable from PriorityStart to the positive post, and attach the ground wire to negative battery post. That's it. No hard wiring which means it is easily moved to another vehicle if needed.

The PriorityStart only operates when needed and it passively monitors the battery voltage when the key is off. If it detects any drain on the battery below a certain voltage for a full minute, it automatically disconnects it. This protects the battery and alternator from damage and maintains the starting power of the unit. The best part is it works automatically. The driver doesn't have to set anything or turn anything on when leaving the unit. If the PriorityStart detects a drain and disconnects from the battery, the driver may not even know. The vehicle will start and operating a light switch, brake pedal, or turning the key automatically reconnects the system.

Safe Lites BeaconWear™

Most of us haven't paid much attention to traffic vests in the past. We used them rarely even though we knew how dangerous it was to be out in traffic wearing our typical dark uniforms. We all realize we are much more likely to be struck by another car while out of our unit than injured by felonious assault. I'm hard pressed to think of any department in my area that hasn't had an officer hit by a vehicle in a traffic accident.

Recent changes in the ANSI Class 2 garment regulations (required for workers near 25 MPH traffic or faster) along with the work of the IACP Law Enforcement Stops and Safety Subcommittee (LESS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have shown the importance of being seen. Safe Lites has combined 3M Scotchlite™ reflective material with their new GlowSkin™ illumination and greatly exceeded the ASNI requirements and created what has been called "most important piece of Personal Protection Equipment since body armor."

ANSI requires the use of material that reflects light from another source, such as headlights. As this requires a separate light source, it is considered passive. Safe Lites BeaconWear™ uses GlowSkin™ active lighting. Because the lighting illuminates independent of any external light source, it is considered active. Regardless of the weather or road conditions, it offers 360 degree illumination since it does not have to rely solely on reflective qualities.

BeaconWear and GlowSkin™ were originally introduced at the 111th IACP and the product continues to advance. It was field tested for over two years and can effectively be seen for up to 500 feet! The vests are machine washable and dry cleanable. In spite of the power source, they do not generate any heat.

GlowSkin™ uses electroluminescent (EL) lighting technology. EL technology has been around for about 40 years including use on the instrument panels of Black Hawk helicopters and strips on the tails and fuselages of fighter planes. Safe Lites took EL from the small application such as watch faces, cell phones, and dashboards to large applications such as vests.

For those who need to know how it works, according to Safe Lites, "EL generates lighting by applying low levels of electrical energy to phosphors. An EL lamp is a capacitor structure with a phosphor sandwiched between the electrodes. When AC or DC voltage is applied, the phosphor to emit light making the lamp 'glow' rather than 'shine' like a light bulb."

GlowSkin™ uses one of two power sources. The Power Pak is for occasional users and uses 2 AA batteries. Depending on whether used in the flash mode or constant on mode, it will last 20-40 hours. The PRO power pak uses rechargeable lithium batteries and lights for 8-10 hours between charging and weighs a slight 2 ounces.

The Safe Lite company believes "Law enforcement should be seen and not hit," but realizes the product runs more than a conventional passive vest. Because of this they created the Community Beacon Program that teams department with community sponsors to provide donated vests.

KeyPer Systems

If you have ever wasted time calling employees trying to find a lost key or searching the department for it, you'll love KeyPer Systems' simple method of key management. KeyPer Systems has been around a few years, but their products continue to evolve. The mechanical key system is the one most likely to be used by the typical agency but their additional systems include electronic key system, lock system, asset vault, and KeyPer GT system.

If you haven't seen the mechanical key management system, take time to visit their site. Like many agencies, my previous department historically hung keys on a board. We purchased the mechanical system a couple years ago. It was so popular so quickly that the EMS division purchased one as well as the city administration. It is inexpensive, effective, easy to install, and easy to use. What more can you ask for!

You can purchase a board to handle from five to 150 keys, depending upon agency needs. It comes in the most commonly used wall mount style, or can be mobile on wheels or a typical locking steel cabinet style. Keys are assigned an access peg that is personalized. A quick glance at the board not only tells you the key is gone, but instantly who has it.

The system has four parts: the peg board, key plugs, tamper seals, and access pegs. The peg board is high-density polycarbonate and basically maintenance free. The key plugs are also polycarbonate and lock tight into the board. Access pegs are also polycarbonate and are engraved with ID numbers or

letters. They are available in 12 colors, which is handy to differentiate between departments or divisions. Tamper seals secure the key or keys to the key plug. It cannot be removed unless cut.

To use you simply insert your peg into the port next to the key you need. Turn your access peg a quarter turn and the key plug is released. Remove the key and now your access peg is locked into the peg. It can't be removed until the access key is returned. To return the key plug, insert it into the board, turn it 1/4 turn and the key plug is locked and access plus is released. Simple and secure.

The next step up so to speak is the electronic key management system. This system can hold up to 280 keys. It uses easy to use Window based software and web support is also available to limit any down time. The electronic system uses biometric fingerprint identification that gives a completely secure personalized login in an amazing one tenth of a second. This system not only tells you who has the key, but also when that person had them and for how long; it can also provide audit reports.

They have a similar system for padlocks called, of course, the padlock management system. This is pretty much the same system except it secures padlocks versus keys, which is needed by many agencies. Another cool product is the Asset Vault, an electronically controlled steel cabinet and software to control access. The vault also uses fingerprint access, can provide full audit trails, and tells you who entered the cabinet, when, how long, etc.

The KeyPer GT system is a portable electronic sensor used when time and place must be controlled and documented. Most are familiar with this type of device as used by security officers to document rounds. It is becoming increasingly popular with hospitals, home health care facilities, inventory control purposes, and detention centers.

The KeyPer GT works with iButton™ Semiconductor identification technology. Various models are available that can record from 200 to over 12,000 events. If you are still hanging keys on hooks, even if you only have a few keys, you need to look at the KeyPer system.

Triosyn® Corporation T-3000

The Triosyn® T-3000 is a disposable particulate respirator designed to provide protection for the front-line emergency employees, police officers, homeland defense personnel, rescue workers, etc. The T-3000 is a simple, comfortable, affordable face mask that gives you the confidence that you are actually protected. Most veteran officers can remember the days when gloves and masks were almost unheard of and rarely used. Fortunately the profession learned and took steps for front line protection. Many have worn a simple paper mask and often wondered how much it was really protecting. The T-3000 addresses that fear.

Unless you like microbiology, toxicology, chemistry, and/or engineering, how and why the T-3000 works can be, to the average officers, let's just say, boring. Quoting Triosyn, "Triosyn® resin is a unique iodine preparation that harnesses that germicidal power of iodine. Triosyn® resin is designed to precisely control the delivery and dosage of free molecular iodine to harmful microorganism, which minimizes any toxic effects to humans and the environment."

Triosyn started up in 1992 and already has an impressive 50 patents with 40 more patents pending. Their mission statement could be summed up as "dedicated to the fight against microbial threats through scientific development and commercial distribution of innovative Triosyn-based antimicrobial products." The T-3000 quite simply protects the wearer against viral and bacterial threats. It traps biological agents using stuff most of us don't understand. What we can understand is it works. The demand-release mechanism of Triosyn® sets it apart from other antimicrobial compounds. The T-3000 is easy to store in the squad and even in the pocket as it folds flat. It is inexpensive which means every car can have at least one.

When you put it on, it is secure and comfortable. It has an adjustable nose bridge and is easy to breath (referred to as low breathing resistance). It feels like it fits and it feels like it works. There should be a T-3000 in your squad for use in handling that body or crime scene, or dealing with that coughing suspect or just those times when your gut tells you there is something here I should be worried about and protected from.

Fisher Labs M-Scope™ Metal Detector

The Portable Walk Through Metal Detector was one of those items I had to go back and look at more than once. We are all familiar with the walk through detectors. After all, in today's world you don't need to go to the airport, just your local courthouse or government building to see a walk through in use. The M-Scope is impressive due to its portability, ideally suited for all those special events.

Fisher Labs specializes in detectors of all types and has since 1931. They have three general areas: the familiar hobby metal detectors, utility locating equipment that many of our public utility departments use, and our area of interest, security solutions. The M-Scope is in use around the globe including being used during the Iraq elections.

When open and in operation, the M-Scope looks like a conventional walk through in shape and size. It stands about 88" high, is 46" wide with a 30" walk through, and about 34" deep. While the typical walk through scanner you may be familiar with has solid sides, the M-Scope has an open look. The sides have a lattice look. This style feature keeps the total weight down. Made for either indoor or outdoor use, the unit is battery operated with a 40 hour battery life. Multiple units can be used near each other and the detector has head to toe zone specific detection with 100 levels of adjustable sensitivity.

But to be really impressed, you need to see the unit in the portable mode and see it set up. The unit weighs only 90 pounds and the portable dimensions are 37" x 23" x 26". It is no different than hauling a suitcase around behind you. One person can move it around and set it up alone in about five minutes, an amazing feature if you have ever needed a walk through detector for a special event. It seems no matter where you originally set it up, it will need to be moved.

Available accessories include a pop up shelter that permits the unit to be used in any weather along with mats and bases with built in levelers. A protective bag/cover is also available to cover the unit during transport. Fisher also manufactures a hand held detector that can be used along or in conjunction with the walk through.

MDI Traffic Control Products

MDI provides emergency signage for construction and utility as well as emergency response. MDI has several traffic control sign systems to review, including the TrafficMaster® Sign Stand, the MDI DuraLatch® Sign System, and the MDI Compact™ Sign System. They also have traffic control vests including the "Red Vest" and the Glo-Gov™ traffic glove.

The Glo-Gov™ is a one size fits all glove that is compact enough to fit in your pocket. The lightweight glove fits over most winter gloves. The Glo-Gov provides high visibility on both sides of the glove and is highly visible in both night and day. The emergency vest, called the "Red Vest," was designed for emergency responders and is made of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective material.

It fits over all types of outerwear including fire gear. Panel titles available include standard Fire, Police, EMS, Haz Mat, and Critical Incident titles such as Command, Safety, Staging, Triage, and Transport. The Red Vest is Class 2 compliant and fire retardant fluorescent red mesh.

The sign systems impressed me the most as they are all easy to use, simple to store, and simple to set up. One person can set them up with no tools as fast if not faster than setting out flares. They easily fit in the trunk of the squad and show up brightly in either ambient daylight or headlights. The reflective signface material returns 60 to 70% of incoming light back. While many agencies do not use portable signs for traffic control, they can certainly increase the safety of emergency responders and lets you worry about the incident instead of the traffic.

The TrafficMaster® Sign stand was designed for portability and handling ease. The kick release legs help in the easy set up. The stand has a dual spring that helps in high wind gusts and the aluminum legs and uprights keep it light. The stand can be used with both the DuraLatch® and the MDI Compact™ signfaces.

The DuraLatch® roll-up signface is reportedly the only self-adjusting sign face. It keeps the signface taut, expands and contracts depending on weather conditions. DuraLatch® has 3 parts, the roll up signface (in 36" or 48"), crossbracing, and the sign stand.

An economical feature is the signfaces are interchangeable and do not need a crossbrace for each sign. The MDI Compact™ Sign System is two parts, the TrafficMaster sign stand and a MDI Compact signface. It is also available in both 36 and 48". The sign and its permanently attached crossbracing folds down and wraps around the sign stand and it easily stored in the trunk.

The signfaces are available in standard legends as well as custom messages. I found one signface interesting, a picture of a squad car with "Training in Progress." It made me realize how many questions and problems could have been avoided by using such a sign during traffic stop training! There are also changeable signfaces, which allow overlay patches. As an example, a sign with "checkpoint ahead" is available as well as overlay patches that read seat belt, car seat, traffic, id, sobriety, vehicle, dui, police, and security. This gives you the use of a variety of signs for much less cost.

VizCon Traffic Control Products

VizCon manufactures a variety of emergency traffic control items. I was very impressed with the Quick Deploy Spring Cone™ Tote and Bag System. Any officer who has hauled traditional traffic cones in his trunk knows what a hassle it is. This unique system allows the carrying of lightweight, collapsible 28" highway cones. Two cones sit in a plastic tote that is easily stored in the trunk due to the compact size. The cones are light weight, about 1/2 the weight of traditional cones and take up a 1/3 of the space. They are easily and quickly deployed at the traffic scene. A rubber base helps holds the cone in place.

Six of these can be easily carried in a provided nylon mesh bag and carried in the trunk with a very small footprint. When opened they spring up ready to be used. The Quick Deploy is also available in a 4 cone pack with a nylon mesh bag holder. To increase visibility by combining active with passive, VizCon provides Omniglow™ lightsticks. The lightsticks are 10" long and made to mount to the top of the cone. They can provide two hours of light that is visible for up to one mile.

VizCon also provides collapsible emergency warning signs. They provide the Zephyr® Emergency Traffic Control sign system which consists of fluorescent vinyl roll-up signfaces with a rubber coated steel plate for stability. They are easy to store, move, and use. The Quick deploy™ Slide-N-Store™ Emergency Sign System is designed for the patrol officer with its quick, 15 second set up. You simply drop the legs, move a slider, and it is deployed.

VizCon has a variety of other related products including Channelizer Drums, 42" Looper Delineator cone and tubes, a folding plastic barricade called the Matador, and plastic rail barricades called Metro-A-Cade which is available from 4 to 12 feet.

Police Technology on Display (cont'd.)

by Kevin Gordon

The Keystone Group

The Keystone Group presented several products but my favorite was a very simple one, LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs for standard flashlights such as Maglite®. My attention was grabbed when I read the LED doesn't break when dropped. I thought about how much money I could have saved over the years. I loved my Maglite® but I was infamous for dropping it. I'd have to buy bulbs by the dozen!

The Maglite® LED upgrades have other advantages. The bulbs last 2000 to 20,000 times longer than conventional bulbs. They provide two to 10 times more light and the battery can last 10 to 30 times longer. The bulbs are available for all sizes, AAA to D cell. The bulbs last longer, are brighter, and use less battery power, a very inexpensive way of updating your flashlight. The initial cost of the bulb is greater but in the long run, you save money.

They also provide the FlareAlert, an electronic, battery operated safety flare. It is resistant to weather, compact, and easy to use. As with the bulbs, it uses LED technology and compared to traditional flares, eliminates flames and fumes. FlareAlert is available in both red and yellow. They last 20 hours in the flash mode and about six hours in the steady on mode. The bulb will reportedly last about 10 years. The units are available individually or a carrying case for six can be purchased.

A LZ (landing zone) kit, a carrying case and FlareAlerts to mark a helicopter landing zone, seems like a very good idea. Trying to signal a medi-vac copter where to land at night in the mist of many emergency vehicles is not always easy. This space saving kit makes it easy to designate such a zone and maybe of as much interest to the EMS folks as well as the police.

The FlashAlert is advertised for various uses including some unconventional ones such as marking searched rooms or vehicles. It is suggested for personal use including marking your house to assist emergency response personnel in finding your home. Any officer assigned to the rural area can appreciate that. I wonder if some creative sheriff's office might combine a safety awareness campaign with a department or project fund raiser, making FlashAlerts available to rural residents for just that purpose.

Mifram Ltd

Mifram Ltd is an Israeli based security solutions manufacturer that has lots of impressive homeland security items including the Modular Vehicle Barrier (MVB), the Modular Crowd Control Barrier (MCCB), and the Shield for Easy Location and Installation (SHELI). These items are the kind most agencies wish they had available for that special event, but they just can't justify the purchase due to limited use and limited budgets. These products require departments to work together for regional purchases, combining various budgets.

While most vehicle barriers are permanent structures or at least take a great deal of time and equipment to reposition, the Modular Vehicle Barrier (MVB) is a quick to set up, light weight, fully portable vehicle barrier. It assembles in about five minutes without tools and protects against immediate threats.

The MVB is an L-shaped unit that locks onto the vehicle wheels. It transfers the ramming vehicle's horizontal momentum, downwards or upwards, until the movement is stopped. It can bring a standard vehicle at a medium speed to a complete stop with very minimal penetration. Using hard figures, the MVB can stop a 2.5 ton vehicle traveling at 46 mph instantaneously, regardless of the surface type. A single unit is only 40" long, 27" high, weighs about 44 lbs, and folds for storage which allows it to be hauled around by any private vehicle, small pickup, or SUV.

You can upgrade the system to handle larger or faster vehicles with ground anchors but you lose some of the portability. Their website has several online videos of the MCB in action and this is one of those products you have to see to appreciate.

Any department with a large crowd event could use the Modular Crowd Control Barrier (MCCB) versus the standard wooden or plastic traffic barricades that we seem to use to block or direct crowds. The MCCB combines two units into a "T" shape. To be close to the rail the crowd must stand on the "T", which causes them to use their own weight as a stabilizer. Each unit is small and lightweight but they can be connected together for any length. A specially designed utility trailer that can haul 50-150 units is available.

Other available, impressive items include the Shield for Easy Location and Installation (SHELI). This is a modular ballistic partition used for temporary protection. It allows you to quickly and easily install a wall that protects against small arms and shrapnel. The SHELI takes up very little space in storage and can be hauled in a small pick up. The Buried Vehicle Barrier (BVB) is capable of withstanding light and heavy vehicles and opens and closes in 2-4 seconds.

The Mercury protective trash can is designed for parks and other public areas to protect against terrorist bombs. The Mercury withstands explosions and contains the resulting shrapnel. Mifram also has the Gabriel bulletproof mobile shelter, the Check Post protected screening module, the Mobile Independent Bulletproof Combat Post (MCP), the Mobile Demonstration Master (MDM), and bulletproof observation and guard towers.

All Traffic Solutions

All Traffic Solutions has two very interesting products that can actually be combined to work together and form a more versatile third product. SPEEDsentry® is an electronic speed-reading device. Many departments use such speed boards to set up in work zones, school zones, or residential areas as an information safety campaign, informing drivers of their speed. While the traditional unit is trailer mounted, the SPEEDsentry® is a portable stand-alone system that can be pole mounted or mounted to your own trailer if you wish. The fact that it is available without a trailer keeps it economical so more departments can utilize such a system.

The system is simple to use and with the addition of WebEmpowered™ it can be remotely managed and provide usable concise traffic information from raw data. Speed can be displayed in 12", 15" or 18" digits with a variety of settings such as posted speed, 10% above posted, all speeds over a certain speed, etc.

The instAlert Rapid Messenger™ is a portable system that weighs only about 40 pounds and collapses small enough to fit in a trunk. Collapsed the unit is 3" deep by 28" tall by 30" wide compared to the open size of 1.5" deep, 28" tall and 60" wide. It has several power options including by vehicle cigarette lighter plug, 4-pin trailer plug adaptor, AC, solar or battery. It can be mounted to a portable or stationary post, a trailer, or the hitch receiver of your vehicle.

Carried in a soft over the shoulder carrying case, it can be carried and set up by one person in about one minute, making it a quick to use message board that allows you to inform traffic of directions such as "Accident Ahead" in a portable easy to use format. It is usable in temperatures from -40 to 175 degrees and can use up to 3 lines with text sizes from 7", 10.25" or 24" letters.

The instALERT can store 25 pre-programmed messages or set them at the site using a laptop or PDA. It comes with 50 pre-programmed messages. With today's departments always looking for creative financing due to short budgets, the portability of this product, various mounting methods, and messaging capability allow it to be used by other city agencies such as public works (eg road work ahead) sharing the cost between departments.

The SPEEDsentry® combined with the instAlert Rapid Messenger™ creates the speedALERT which allows the combination of the features of each unit. For example, it allows you to program messages with certain speeds to either warn drivers in violation or praise safe drivers.

Imtech

Most of the products I write about can be of use to the average police agency. Imtech's products are not for that average department. Imtech provides large scale video displays and software that these average departments will most likely not obtain, nor could they afford.

I include the Imtech info because it is interesting technology and while most agencies will not use it, they may see it in use at larger joint Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Intelligence centers, banking centers, infrastructure security monitoring sites that have come in their own since the increased terrorist threats, and other critical markets such as defense, transportation, utility, and homeland security centers.

Imtech has been in the display and control of network data systems since 1983. Their network based software is present in over a thousand systems around the world. In Imtech's own words, they use a variety of technologies to "provide situational awareness in the most complex homeland security missions, including: intelligence data fusion, command and control, infrastructure protection, and emergency operations."

Simply stated, the turn key solutions of data walls and desktop displays give the user the info they need, the ability to create and manipulate that visual data, and the ability to organize and communicate that data resulting in the control needed over the incident or event. Users need to be able to communicate information quickly but securely.

Activu Plus, Imtech's latest software release, excels as it is user defined and configured by user login versus the more traditional one size fits all user interface. With Activu Plus there is no limit to the different capabilities assigned to each user or class of user. It also allows the graphic user interface (GUI) to reside on the display, a wireless tablet or PDA, or the user's desktop.

The list of clients is a true list of who's who including the Department of Homeland Security, American Airlines, AMTRAK, Bank of New York, NYPD, US Coast Guard, US Customs, Lockheed Martin, and Edwards AFB just to name a few.

First-Light USA Tactical Light

First-Light USA introduced their hand-based, hand-held lighting device geared specifically for law enforcement personnel, the Liberator® tactical light. Over four years in development, the Liberator tactical light balances performance-based engineering with common-sense thinking, in a lightweight, easy-to-handle package.

Its design has undergone numerous refinements, based on feedback from live-fire and gun-handling tests with active law enforcement professionals. These test results and data-driven design strategy have created an ergonomic light source that leaves both of the users' hands free to properly handle firearms or grasp other objects.

By utilizing the hand's instinctive movements, rather than working against them, First-Light has left both of the user's hands free without sacrificing the ability to illuminate the environment.

Testing by the University of Illinois Police Training Institute showed a 23% overall marksmanship improvement compared to conventional flashlights. Significant average gains in reaction speed drills were also realized, including a 2.12-second improvement in tactical reload drills and a 1.93-second improvement in speed load drills.

Testing also revealed just a 5% accuracy reduction from daylight to darkness using the Liberator tactical light, versus a 19% loss of accuracy with cylindrical flashlights. All testing was conducted and supervised by experienced firearms instructors; all test subjects were active law enforcement officers and trainees with less than 15 minutes of training with the First-Light Liberator tactical light.

The Liberator tactical light features a three-watt Lumileds Luxeon Star® emitter, with an output of 80 lumens of white light. Weighing in at 9 ounces, its housing is constructed of aerospace-grade aluminum

and high-performance polymers. A three-button control system allows for three brightness levels in constant-on mode, a momentary switch, and a lockout mode to prevent accidental activation. Its strap and handle are fully adjustable and ergonomically designed for optimum control and comfort while correctly gripping both handguns and long guns.

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