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is the Official Publication of the International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.

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Security Solutions - Options

Controlling Key Duplication & Accessibility

Drug Drop-Off Boxes

Security Breaches: Unauthorized Entries

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NEW WEB-SITE LINKS & RESOURCES:

The extensive IAPE web-site now offers up-dated links to numerous law enforcement agencies, programs and resources that pertain to our field. Topics include latest DNA handling practices, training opportunities, on-line classes, new products and vendors; plus current headlines and blog entries hand-picked for your information.

www.iape.org/resourcesPages/downloads.html



THE EVIDENCE LOG[®]

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We invite comments on our format and the contents within. Submitted items should be mailed to the attention of the The Evidence Log[®] staff, and are subject to editorial review for appropriateness of content and length.

Volume 2011, Number 2

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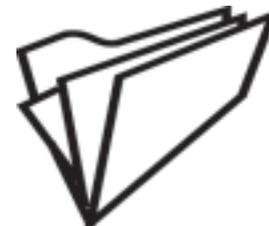
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BOB GILES

EVIDENCE LOG EDITOR

EDITOR'S CORNER

THE GILES FILES



HOW SAFE IS YOUR EVIDENCE?

The term evidence security, this issue's topic, refers to the ability to safeguard entrusted items from theft, tampering, cross contamination, and other environmental hazards. The public trust demands that when property is received by a law enforcement agency, it will be there for future retrieval in its original condition. Doesn't any lower standard reflect a failure of agency leadership?

The need for evidence security should be self evident for most, but just a reminder that our entire legal system is based upon presenting reliable evidence that tends to prove facts for a jury of our peers. The test of reliability in court generally requires the agency to completely document who seized it and when, where it was located, what the item is, and who witnessed it (if anyone). Furthermore, the item needs to be packaged in a manner that its value as evidence is not diminished by cross-contamination or perceived possibility of tampering. Adequate documentation regarding its chain of custody must also be kept to show where it has been, and who had access to the item. That's is a lot of things that have to come together right in order to enter an evidence item in a trial.

In spite of the technical aspects of ensuring that evidence is available for court, evidence room security must also overcome the will of persons (both internally and externally) who may try to steal evidence. Drugs, money, and firearms are the types of evidence that are at the highest risk of theft. A lack of strong internal controls is almost always a common factor among agencies that experience employee related thefts.

For those agencies that rely solely upon a lock and key system to secure their evidence, consider the following: A Utah Highway Patrol officer's teenage son used his father's keys to steal drugs from the UHP evidence building. Or in another case, in Mabscott, West Virginia, a wife used her husband's keys to steal money and drugs. Would a lock in conjunction with a PIN number have prevented these thefts? Would an audible alarm with a code override have stifled an attempt? Would video surveillance made it easy to identify the thieves? Perhaps.

Would having a secure video surveillance system that monitors where drugs and money are packaged and stored create an environment where a thief believes he/she is certain to get caught? Perhaps.

Most tragically, a 1995 incident in Yuma Arizona occurred where a drug task force agent with a drug problem made forcible entry into an evidence room and was confronted by other unarmed employees. This resulted in the tragic shooting death of two employees. I won't speculate on what might have prevented this tragic incident.

There are countless examples of evidence room employees stealing drugs, money, and guns. There will always be thefts by persons who are entrusted with evidence. This is why background checks are so important; but, we can also harden the target and make apprehension a swift and certain consequence to stealing evidence. Why make it easy for the bad guys?

Robert Giles,

Evidence Log Editor

Security Breaches: Unauthorized Entries

By: Joseph Latta, IAPE Executive Director

This issue of the Evidence Log is concentrating on security of the evidence room, regarding both internal and external threats. I'm sure some of our readers are asking... "Joe, it's a police station - how much more secure do you want?" To validate our standards and commentary on security I choose to search our website and found the following list of articles that have been posted just in the last 15 months about unauthorized entries into police evidence storage areas. Some of them are employees and some are real burglars, but I'm guessing every one of the stories may have been avoided with proper locks, alarms and security precautions.

Dispatcher, 2 Inmates Arrested for Burglary - Krotz Springs, LA	<i>June, 2011</i>
9 of 10 Arrested in HPD Locker Raid Indicted - Hattiesburg, MS	<i>June, 2011</i>
PD Evidence Room Unsecure After Town Hall Burglary - Norway, SC	<i>February, 2011</i>
Excise Officer Fired - Fort Wayne, IN	<i>November, 2010</i>
Former Officer Sentenced After Stealing Drugs - Pleasant Hill, MO	<i>October, 2010</i>
Pot Plants Stolen from Police Evidence Building - Farmington, ME	<i>September, 2010</i>
One Arrested in Fire at WNC Sheriff's Office - Graham County, SC	<i>May, 2010</i>
Burglars Break Into Evidence Lock-Up - Prichard, AL	<i>April, 2010</i>

The above stories & more can be found at: <http://evidenceblog.iape.org>

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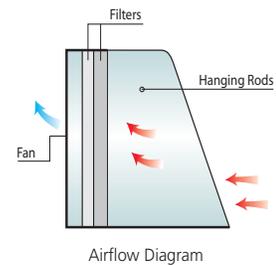


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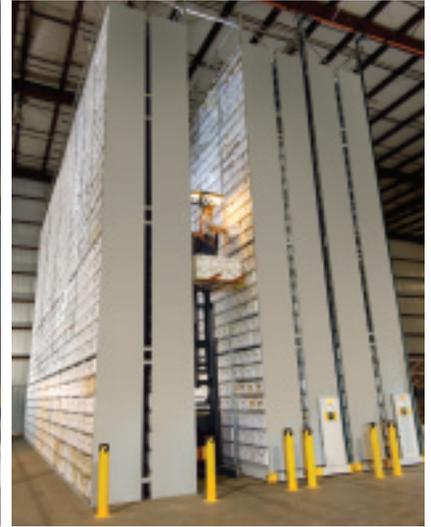
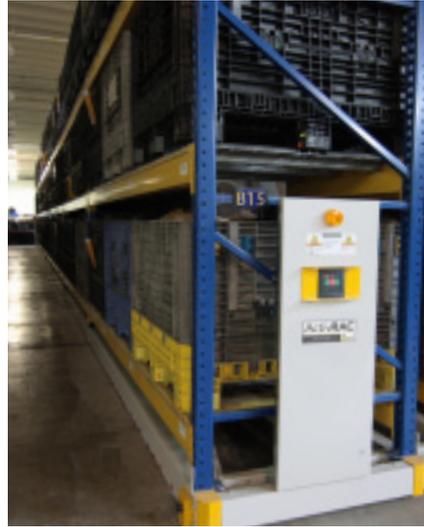
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IAPE STANDARDS - SECTION 8 EVIDENCE ROOM SECURITY

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Standard 8.1: Security – Policy

Standard: Written policy should require access controls that will ensure that unauthorized persons do not enter secure areas. These controls include, but are not limited to: key control, changing locks or access codes with changes of personnel, access logs, after-hours procedures, use of surveillance cameras and alarms.

Definition: A written policy that defines all issues related to the security of the various property and evidence storage areas.

Reasoning: Enforceable written policies are needed compelling employees to adhere to security requirements that, if violated, can jeopardize the integrity of the property room and interfere with the chain of custody.

A written directive should require that only authorized personnel have access to the areas used by the agency for storage of property and evidence. Policy should define who has access to keys, access control, key duplication, changing of locks or access code with changes of personnel, access logs, after-hours procedures, and alarm testing.

It should be clearly stated in the agency’s policy that anyone who has keys or access to the keys will be questioned and may be considered as a suspect in an investigation relating to any missing evidence. If the Chief/Sheriff/CEO has a key, it may also negate his/her ability to oversee a criminal and/or administrative investigation.

Standard 8.2: Security - Access

Standard: A written policy should permit only authorized personnel to have access to the property room storage areas, and no one other than property unit personnel should have keys or mechanical/electronic access to the property storage areas.

Definition: Access refers to the process that controls entry into restricted areas.

Reasoning: Entry into restricted storage areas should be closely controlled to prevent accusations of alteration, unauthorized removal, theft, or tampering with property or evidence stored by the agency. Access restriction protects the proper chain of custody. Those permitted access should include the property officer(s), and the supervisor. All other persons who enter the property room/storage areas must be documented in an Access Log with the reason for needing access and they should be escorted at all times while within the room and/or storage areas.

The manager/administrator who has oversight of the property unit and the Chief/Sheriff/CEO of the agency should not have independent, unescorted access into the property room and/or storage areas. If one of those individuals has a key or access, the agency should establish a system that requires another authorized person to disarm the alarm, thereby creating a two-person rule.

Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 9

IAPE STANDARDS - SECTION 8 *cont'd.*

Standard 8.2: **Security - Access** *cont'd.*

As noted in Standard 8.1, having independent/unescorted access into the property room/storage areas may adversely impact an administrative inquiry and/or a criminal investigation. The agency's policy should clearly articulate that anyone, including the Chief/Sheriff/C.E.O., who has independent/unescorted access into the property room/storage areas, may be investigated if there is any breach of security in those areas

Standard 8.3: **Access Log**

Standard: An access log should be maintained for documenting any entry by anyone that is not assigned to the Property Unit.

Definition: An access log is a document that records the entry of non-assigned personnel into the property room, and why the entry was necessary. The log should record name, ID number, reason for the entry and which employee assigned to the property unit escorted the person.

Reasoning: Personnel outside the property unit may occasionally have a need to enter the storage locations of the property unit. Detectives may need to view a large piece of evidence that cannot be easily moved outside of the permanent storage location, or some type of building maintenance issue might require access. These persons should not be allowed access without immediate supervision at all times.

Supervisors should review the access log on a monthly basis and it should also be inspected as part of a periodic audit by the agency or outside consultants. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that the department policy is being complied with.

Evidence or property is often discovered missing years after the actual theft. Therefore, it is imperative that access logs be maintained for at least 10 years so that they are available to investigators. Additionally, in the event of a defense challenge in court, the retention of the logs should reflect the time period for the oldest item of evidence in the property room in the event it is challenged in court

Standard 8.4: **Security – After Hours Access**

Standard: It is always suggested that an assigned property officer be called in for after-hours entry or the key-holding supervisor if the property officer is not available. If this is not practical, a two-person rule is necessary, which would include the completion of the access log.

Definition: After-hours access to the secure property room means anytime an assigned property officer is not available for call-out, and there is a compelling reason for immediate access that cannot wait for the property officer or supervisor to arrive.

Reasoning: After-hours access by non-assigned personnel should be discouraged. In the event that after-hours access is necessary and assigned property room staff are not available for recall, policy should restrict the method of entry into the property room. At no time should one person enter alone, two individuals should be present.

Standard 8.5: Security - **Key Control / Electronic Access Control**

Standard: All keys, access codes, combination numbers, and proximity cards should be closely monitored, and accounted for annually. Keys should not be available to anyone other than property room personnel.

Continued on page 13

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IAPE STANDARDS - SECTION 8 *cont'd.*

Standard 8.5:

Access Control *cont'd.*

Definition: Key and electronic access control refers to accounting for all keys and access cards on a scheduled basis to guard the integrity of the evidence.

Reasoning: Conducting periodic audits of a key-holding persons' keys/access cards ensures that authorized employees have possession of them and that all are accounted for.

Backup keys to the evidence storage areas should not be utilized unless they are kept by the Unit Commander, or designee, in a locked safe or drawer. Entry of the Unit Commander into the property room without a second person may result in the Commander becoming part of the investigation in the event evidence is missing.

Under no circumstances should an unsecured key to the property room be kept in a location where multiple persons have access to it, such as the Watch Commander, Patrol Sergeant, or the Officer in Charge's office.

Standard 8.6:

Security - Lock Changes

Standard: Locks, access codes, and combinations to the property room should always be changed with any resignation, termination, retirement or transfer of Property Unit key-holding personnel.

Definition: Lock changes refers to changing the locks, keys, combinations or other electronic access devices which secure the storage and office areas of the Property Unit. Locking systems include, but are not limited to keys, access codes, combinations and locks.

Reasoning: Locking systems should be changed whenever personnel reassignments occur to ensure that a departing employee no longer has access to the various storage and office areas.

The property room should be equipped with high quality locks that can be replaced whenever personnel changes occur. One way to achieve this is to use interchangeable core locks that permit the keys to be changed easily and inexpensively.

Alternatives to traditional keys are either electronic locking systems or mechanical systems that may include a personal identification number (PIN) which records who accessed the door and includes date/time of entry.

When locks, access codes, or combinations are changed by an employee outside of the property unit (facilities manager) or an outside service (locksmith), the process needs to be closely monitored to ensure that the third party doesn't have the ability to gain access to secure areas. One safeguard may be to have an independent alarm system that the third party or contractor can't control or defeat.

Standard 8.7:

Security - Alarms

Standard: All storage areas should be alarmed and monitored on a 24-hour basis. Storage rooms that contain guns, money and drugs should be separately alarmed or independently zoned area whenever possible.

Definition: A security alarm system may include an audible or silent signal that is activated anytime there is an unauthorized entry.

Reasoning: Intrusion alarms need to be installed so as to alert other department personnel in a 24-hour monitoring position that there has been a breach of security in a specific area.

Alarm technology now permits many different activation methods, including, but not limited to: motion, thermal, sound, contact points, pressure pads, seismic alarms, and even laser beams.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

IAPE STANDARDS - SECTION 8 *cont'd.*

Standard 8.7: Alarms *cont'd.*

The activation of any alarm should be monitored in a communications center, front desk, Watch Commander's office, or at a private alarm company. Having a third party such as a private alarm company receiving the activation signal is a good practice as the alarm company provides an outside source for the notification process and reduces the likelihood of other station personnel from compromising the system.

Many alarm systems are capable of sending a text message alerts directed to a manager or property officer's cell phone or computer.

Rooms that contain high-profile items, such as firearms, narcotics and money should be provided with enhanced security that may be achieved with alarms for separate storage areas.

Refrigerators and freezers should be equipped with alarms that indicate if the temperature changes above a designated level. The alarm should be monitored in a 24-hour location, such as the communications center, for example.

Standard 8.8: Security - Duress Alarms

Standard: Property release counters without the presence of a sworn officer should have a duress alarm to summon assistance quickly, if needed.

Definition: An audible or silent duress alarm may be used to summon assistance when a person becomes boisterous or threatening while conducting business at a public release counter.

Reasoning: Civilian personnel are occasionally called upon to release property to persons who may disagree with departmental policy, property description, or legal constraints. When this occurs at a public counter that is remote from immediate uniformed assistance, the civilian employee should have some method of discretely calling for assistance. This may be a telephone, a portable radio, a silent alarm, a duress button, or just a buzzer that remains on until it is reset.

Any type of duress alarm should be tested monthly and a record of the tests should be maintained for future reference.

Standard 8.9: Security - Video Surveillance

Standard: Video surveillance cameras should be utilized whenever enhanced security or a long-term record of ingress, movement, and egress is desired.

Definition: Video surveillance systems are used to record who and when anyone has gained entry into specific defined areas.

Reasoning: Installation of video surveillance equipment should be considered to act as both a deterrent for good internal controls and externally to dissuade unauthorized entry without detection.

All doors into a secure area should be equipped with cameras in addition to those areas where guns, money and drugs are stored. Including cameras where evidence is deposited, such as counters and lockers, can validate when evidence was submitted as well as confirming that evidence was indeed submitted. Installation of cameras at any release counter may document the release, memorialize the transaction, and may protect the agency from accusations of mishandling evidence.

New digital technologies now allows the data to be stored on hard drive when there is movement in front of the camera, thus limiting the amount of data needed to be stored.. The recording is initiated based upon the movement and the digital data is stored on a hard drive. Once the person creating the motion leaves, the area the recording stops.

The digital data should be stored for a period of years, e.g. at least three or four years, so that it is available to investigators should it be discovered that evidence is missing.

Read Editor's COMMENTARY on Next Page

IAPE Professional Standards - Section 8

Commentary

Robert Giles, Evidence Log Editor

In this issue we have discussed the need for proper evidence room security and how to achieve it. Each and every day there are news accounts nationwide of evidence that is missing from its designated location in the evidence room where it was deemed to be safe. There are several causes for mysterious disappearances that range from poor record keeping to theft by entrusted employees. There are also thefts committed by employees that have no authority to be inside the evidence room, and there are also burglaries that are perpetrated by non-employees. Proper security of the evidence room will not only discourage persons from attempting to steal evidence, but will also provide reasonable certainty that any person who attempts to steal will quickly be identified. These principles are very important because "hardening the target" is generally the most effective way to achieve security.

First of all, leadership starts at the top, and an agency should have a written policy that establishes all evidence storage facilities as secure areas, limits who may enter designated secure areas, and under what circumstances. Upper management, including Chiefs and Sheriffs, often believe they need access to the evidence room. Most often this is not the case; as keyholders, this just includes them on the list of suspects if evidence is missing. This inclusion also creates a conflict of interest in administrative disciplinary hearings.

The policy should also declare who should have keys or access cards issued, and when the locks or keys need to be changed. Merely having a policy is only part of the equation; it must also be actively enforced. For example, having an access log that is signed by all visitors who enter the room, why their entry is necessary, and designates who is responsible for carefully watching this person while they are inside is a fundamental internal control. Having the manager in charge of the evidence room review the entry logs monthly for policy violations is just as important.

Once the secure zone is established, a method of verifying and enforcing the exclusionary zone should be created. Ideally, a security system will protect contents inside the evidence room from both internal and external threats. Evidence rooms are located in many different locations, depending

upon the size of the agency. A small agency may have a closet; a medium size agency may have a large room; and a large agency may have a large dedicated building that consolidates all sizes and types of evidence in one facility. The common factor in all these locations is that unauthorized persons should not be permitted inside. External thefts may be prevented by hardening the target; i.e.: fences, gates, walls, locked doors, etc. Rare attempts have been made to destroy evidence through the use of arson or explosives; however, external entry was made more often entry by surreptitious or covert means, including the use of employees' keys by other family members.

A very reliable method to restrict both internal and external access is the use of an alarm system in concert with a video surveillance and recording system. The alarm should have a PIN number that only permits entry to an authorized person. The video surveillance system should have a digital backbone that records all security cameras at the same time and can only be operated by authorized personnel who do not also have access to the evidence room.

The items most at risk in an evidence room are firearms, money, and narcotics. As a result of their risk factor, IAPE and other professional organizations strongly recommend they be provided with an enhanced level of security. This may be accomplished by having a second person with a second key for a second lock, additional electronic access controls, additional video surveillance, or some other combination of access controls.

Once complete access control to the evidence room has been achieved, the remaining component of evidence room security is to properly track and monitor where every item is at any time that it is not in its designated location. Every time an item is sent to the crime lab, to court, to another location for investigation, or removed from its location for whatever reason, it needs to be fully documented. Also consider making investigative copies of tapes and photos to permit unfettered access to the information without compromising the integrity of the original evidence item.

Evidence room security is certain to be improved by following these guidelines. IAPE Standard #8 Security is reprinted in the this issue for your information and reference. – Ed.

EVENT OR TREND ?

Seized Drugs Reported Stolen from Evidence at Medical Examiner's Office

The Herald in Everett, Washington reports that a master investigator with the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office resigned last week amid allegations that he stole drugs that were seized as part of death investigations.

Sheriff's detectives recently forwarded the case to the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office for possible criminal charges, including drug possession and official misconduct.

The allegations surfaced in March after the man requested a six-week leave of absence. He declined to tell his supervisor why he needed the time off. The medical examiner's office later received paperwork from a doctor in California indicating that the man was being treated for a substance-abuse problem, according to police records.

A short time later employees in the office conducted an inventory of controlled drugs that had been seized during different cases. They discovered that an evidence envelope that the man was supposed to deliver to the sheriff's office for destruction had been opened and resealed, according to a police affidavit.

Evidence logs showed that 21 drugs in various quantities were missing from the envelope, according to police. Detectives also discovered that evidence forms had been forged and additional drugs had been removed from evidence envelopes slated for destruction, according to the records.

COMMENTARY

Here's a new twist on a common problem. We have examined the evidence mishandling practices of many law enforcement agencies and courts, but this is the first time a Coroner's office has reached our attention through the news. How do you prevent an entrusted employee from stealing evidence?

We need to realize that employees may develop a drug problem over time, and random unannounced yearly drug tests for every person who handles narcotics is a desirable policy as long as this doesn't violate state law and or is in conflict with any contractual requirement.

Recently IAPE came across a job notice for a police officer position at a large university. The job announcement stated "Note: This position is subject to a satisfactory background investigation, which may include but is not limited to criminal history review, drug test, credit checks, driving record review, work history verification, reference checks, etc. This position is subject to random drug testing, as well as re-fingerprinting and reinvestigation every five years."

Would this type of policy lessen the likelihood of a theft or identify a problem early on? Also, the importance of supervisory oversight cannot be understated; however, there are many Coroner's offices that do not lend themselves to this type of relationship due to their small size. - Ed.



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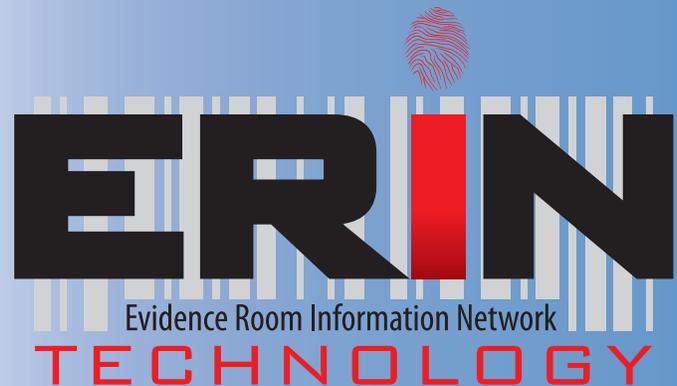
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SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD MEMBER

JOE MORALLI

City of Chico, California

New IAPE Board Member Joe Moralli is presently employed by the City of Chico as the Property Manager/Crime Scene Manager. In this capacity he is required to secure and maintain evidence as well as have oversight of the Crime Scene Investigation Unit.

He also currently holds the position of Second Vice-President of the California Association of Property and Evidence (C.A.P.E.) on the State Executive Board. Additionally, he has held the position of Conference Director twice. Prior to his current position, Joe was the Chairperson for the State By-Laws Committee. The committee was formed to update and make necessary changes to the organization's by-laws.

In 2003 Joe started the Sierra Nevada Chapter of C.A.P.E. This required writing chapter by-laws, a letter of interest to the Executive Board, and organizing members throughout northernmost California. This chapter has been very successful, as previously this resource was unavailable to many law enforcement agencies north of Sacramento. Joe recognized the need for training in the rural areas in Northern California and made the necessary efforts to get this chapter recognized by the organization.

Joe was selected as the Alta Chapter Property Officer of the Year and also State Property Officer of the Year in 2003. Additionally, he was selected the Sierra

Nevada Chapter Property Officer of the Year in both 2004 and 2005.

Joe continues to strive for the betterment of those personnel involved in the property function of law enforcement. In recent years he has worked closely with his District Attorney's Office in the development of a Property Retention Policy. Many agencies throughout the state are looking at a similar policy for their counties.

Another aspect of his job duties includes the oversight of the Crime Scene Investigation Unit. As a result of this, Joe became involved with the California State Division of the International Association for Identification, and was elected to the position of Director of the North at their conference in May 2009. This position allowed him to become involved in the training of crime scene investigators and identification personnel throughout the state.

In recent years, Joe has gone back to college, in an effort to obtain his Bachelor's degree. Even with his involvement with all the aforementioned organizations and activities, "Chico Joe" still finds time for his other interests. He is an avid bicycle rider, softball player, and an ATV enthusiast.

The IAPE as an organization is very pleased and fortunate to count Joe Moralli as a dedicated member on our IAPE Board of Directors.

SECURITY SOLUTIONS

By: Robert Giles, Evidence Log Editor

There is a great variety of security hardware and systems available that can help provide the answer to the question, how much security do you need? There are many traditional hardware items, like locks and keys for example, that keep people out unless they have the key. There are high technology solutions that not only keep a person out, but record when an unauthorized attempt is made to enter. High technology that we thought was only in the future is now readily available and in daily use.

Lets review some of the "stuff" that is out there just waiting to solve your security needs.



TRADITIONAL LOCK & KEYS

First, lets make an assumption that the evidence room that you need secured is built with something like a concrete floor and cinderblock walls that each to floor pan of the next floor above. If not, does it make any sense to install a high quality lock on a door, if the walls may be breached with just a drywall knife? Is the entry door constructed of a solid core or metal clad? Can the walls, ceiling, or door be breached with a battery powered circular or reciprocating saw? If so, it's time to harden the target with security mesh screen or metal cladding. Don't forget to install a metal doorframe that accepts an extended throw of a double cylinder dead bolt.

Traditional locks and keys are problematic because anyone can duplicate a key. Furthermore, IAPE recommends that the locks and keys should be changed anytime a "key-holding" employee is replaced, which discourages necessary security procedures due to the expense. Special security keys marketed by several major lock companies limit the availability of key blanks without an authorized signature on letterhead stationary. Is this absolutely secure? No, but it's better than using a residential quality lock. High security cylinders are made to be "virtually" pick-proof and usually have hardened steel inserts in them to help prevent physical attack by drilling. In addition, they are usually combined with an astragal, the reinforcing plate that also prevents the striker from being shimmed.

Ramping things up a bit on the security hierarchy, a user can combine a high security lock with an interchangeable core feature. This permits keys and cores to be changed inexpensively every time an

assignment change is made to a key holding employee. Replacement cores may be obtained from the vendor through overnight shipping to allow for quick replacement if spares are not in stock. Placing one core in a door handle, and a different core in a deadbolt permits two keys to e issued to open a door. This effectively creates a "rule of two" when two persons are needed for access into a secure room. An advantageous by-product of this is that the old core that was removed may be re-used in another doorlock or padlock location with a lower security need.

Further up the security hierarchy is CyberLock, an innovative lock system that easily converts existing mechanical locks into a digital access control system. With electronic lock cylinders, programmable CyberKeys, and CyberAudit software, you can create a powerful system to track and control access to every lock in your facility. Each time a key is used at a lock, a record of the lock ID, date, and time is stored in the key, and a record of the key ID, date, and time is stored in the lock. The key stores up to 3,900 of the most recent access events, and the lock stores the most recent 1100 access events. Locks and keys also record when an unauthorized person attempted to open the lock.

AFTER-HOURS KEY CONTROL

Having a hidden key, or a key assigned to the watch commander is strongly discouraged because they are most often found inside these "key lockboxes", which are most often left unlocked.

Continued on Next Page

SECURITY SOLUTIONS *cont'd.*

Many thefts from evidence rooms are suspected to involve emergency keys. One option often used is a sealed envelope that requires a memo to the division captain whenever the key is used. There are often dozens of layers of tape sealing the envelope, but no memos

to explain why entry was necessary and who went inside. One lockbox access that can work requires glass to be broken to access the key, but the lack of documentation can still remain a problem. Always use an access log for documentation and

require two persons to enter a secure area after hours if absolutely necessary. Bottom line is, don't use a spare key, instead call-in a designated key-holder.

ELECTRONIC SECURITY ACCESS CARDS

Electronic access cards are quite common in several forms. There is the magnetic swipe card, used on credit cards and driver licenses. There is also a proximity card that contains an RFID chip and antenna and is read by a wall-mounted reader. These access cards identify whose card activated the reader and at what time. There are also systems that combine the proximity card with a

PIN number to assure the entity that the card belongs to the user. One note of caution: auto keys that rely on RFID technology have been hacked by placing an illicit reader within 300' (unobstructed) of where it is used. The

likelihood of this happening in the controlled environment of a police facility is very remote, but it is possible. Could this create a reasonable doubt in a criminal case? Who knows?

SCRAMBLE PADS

A scramble pad is a coded numerical keypad used to allow access. Uniquely, it randomly mixes the location of the nine number pads so they are not in the same place and visible to someone carefully watching the sequence and location of the keystrokes. Entry with a scramble pad does away with keys and card access, but does not identify who pressed the keys. It should be used in combination with a video security system whenever possible.

BIOMETRIC LOCKS

A biometric fingerprint reader is a very secure system, requiring a single digit that is recorded as the

one permitting entry, and only opening the lock when the same digit is read again.

There are many dozens of biometric locks on the market that rely on comparing one or more fingerprints to gain access. Pick

your level of security need.

Another type of biometric lock is a retinal scan that reads and compares retinas. This type of reader is also very secure and technology is readily available for industrial use. Again, determine your need for security and select the level that meets your needs and price.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The cost for electronic security systems has dropped tremendously as it has become the norm in industrial applications. We live in a world where 24/7 electronic surveillance applies to any public space as well as the workplace. The cameras may be recorded real-time, or condensed just to show movement in the frame. The recording media is now digital onto a hard drive and may even be accessed remotely. The backbone that records the data should always be in a secure location that is free from tampering and is not assigned to someone who has access to the evidence room. It should only be monitored by authorized personnel. A back-up copy can also be recorded simultaneously at a different location to ensure data integrity.

Cameras are among the most cost effective solutions to improve security and collect evidence. They should be used to cover the temporary lockers submitting area, the temporary locker retrieval area, the entry door to the evidence room, the entry areas into the narcotics storage, the money storage, and firearms storage areas. Additional cameras may be added as needed.

I have shown you some of the more innovative security solutions that have been encountered in our travels. The creative use of one or more of these locking devices in conjunction with video surveillance is certain to solve whatever security problem your agency can encounter, or will make discovery of a breach and the identification of the culprit almost certain. I would like to hear from any member has security lock issues that cannot not be addressed with these examples, and how it was resolved. – Ed.



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- **Training Format**

The class is an intensive sixteen hour classroom style course designed to maximize learning sound property room concepts. Extensive PowerPoint and video collections illustrate properly designed facilities and systems.

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Students will receive a Certificate of Attendance, in addition to the class materials and valuable knowledge received in the class.

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- **Tuition Fee**

Course fee includes tuition, membership, student workbook, CD of forms and property manuals. Discount tuitions are available to returning members and when additional students from the same agency attend the same class.

- **Transportation and Lodging**

Training is usually held at hosting department's training facility or at the listed hotel. Transportation, food, and lodging are the responsibility of each participant.

- **Exchange Ideas**

Network with property room professionals from agencies across the United States and Canada.



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- Minneapolis, MN - October 5 - 6
- Bay City, MI - October 12 - 13
- Cambridge, MA - October 17 - 18
- Cape Coral, FL - October 25 - 26
- Portland, OR - November 8 - 9
- Tucson, AZ - November 15 - 16
- Nashville, TN - December 1 - 2
- Burbank, CA - December 6 - 7

2011

- Las Vegas, NV January 30 - 31
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and more to be announced!

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- Refunds will be made with 14 days notice. Substitutions may be made at any time.

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WE GET MAIL...

Editor's Note: *We try to respond to as many letters as we can, with information which may be relevant to the broadest audience possible. However, on occasion, we are unable to come up with a suitable response, as in the letter below, and open up the question to you, our membership, in an effort to broaden use of the Evidence Log as a resource and open forum. We thank you for your continued participation in this process.*

Hey Joe,

What should the retention schedule be for our inventory sheets and results? Our records management currently has it set at current plus three years.

Thanks, Pat

Pat:

There is no written standard; however, if you can scan and keep them for multiple years that could be a benefit in the future. Generally speaking, property room "missing stuff" generally doesn't rear its ugly head for years.

The longer you keep these records, the better. If something shows up missing tomorrow and it's a seven-year old case, you could go to last year's inventory and show it was there a year ago...now we know something happened in the last 12 months. Scanning these records electronically really takes little memory storage space.

Joe

Continued on page 35

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We are always looking to our readers for suggestions of articles to publish in future issues of the Evidence Log.

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- Requirements:** There are five criteria that must be met in order to become a Certified Property & Evidence Specialist:
1. Applicant must have attended & completed the I.A.P.E. two day "Property & Evidence Management Course"
 2. Applicant must have served in the Property function for either:
 - a. One year as a full time assignment, or
 - b. A total of 2080 hours (one year equivalent) as a part time assignment

NOTE: The period of service must be certified by the Chief of Police, Sheriff, or his/her designee
 3. Submit an application & testing fee for the Online CPES Certification Test
 4. Achieve a satisfactory grade on the CPES Certification Test
 5. Be a current, dues paid member of I.A.P.E. & maintain membership during the period of certification.

- Procedures:** Here are the steps for the CPES application procedure:
1. Complete the CPES application form
 2. Have your Chief of Police, Sheriff, or agency CEO, or his/her designee, sign the confirmation of your length of serve in the Property Officer function (see the CPES application form)
 3. Send your completed CPES application form along with either a check or money order in the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) made payable to: "I.A.P.E." Credit Card payment can be made using MasterCard, VISA, or AMEX credit card authorization for the same amount, to:
International Association for Property & Evidence, Inc.
903 N. San Fernando Blvd. (Suite 4)
Burbank, CA 91504

CPES Online Test Information: Once your application and payment have been received and processed you will be sent an e-mail message containing the online test administration information and login procedures. To take your online test you will need a computer that has Internet access for a period of sixty (60) minutes. When the test is completed you will be notified of the test outcome. (Note: Should you not pass the test, you will be given one opportunity to take another version of the test. The second exam is covered in your initial fee) The online exam contains fifty (50) multiple choice questions and all of these questions are based upon the I.A.P.E. Professional Standards that can be found on the I.A.P.E. Web site at: www.iape.org

VERY IMPORTANT: Your online test is a timed assessment, once you log into the actual test the clock begins to run. Do Not open the test until you are ready to actually take and complete the exam.

After the successful completion of the CPES online test, you will be mailed your official I.A.P.E. Certified Property & Evidence Specialist certificate.

Questions: Should you have any questions, please contact us at the numbers below:

Questions related to billing and payment: 1-800-449-4273
Questions regarding technology and the online test: 1-631-628-2823

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International Association for Property and Evidence, Inc.
Application Form
CERTIFIED PROPERTY & EVIDENCE
SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Applicant's Name:

First: _____ Middle Initial : _____ Last : _____

Note: The name on your C.P.E.S. Certificate will appear as above.

Employer:

_____ Police Sheriff Other: _____

Mailing Address:

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Telephone:

(____) ____ - _____ Applicant's Job Title: _____

e-mail Address:

_____ (e-mail address is required)

Applicant's I.A.P.E. Property & Evidence Management Course

Month: _____ Year: _____

Location(City/Town)where you attended the course: _____

Current Dues Paying I.A.P.E. Member:

Yes No (If not a current member call 1-800-449-4273 to apply/reapply)

Certification of Service as a Property Officer/Evidence Custodian

As the Chief of Police or Sheriff, or his/her designee, I certify that the above applicant has served as a Property Officer for this Department as:

Certification of Property Officer Experience:

- Full time Property Officer for a period of one full year, or
- Part time Property Officer who has completed at least 2080 hours (the equivalent of one full year) in the Property Officer function

Certified by: _____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

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Options for Fee payment

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I authorize I.A.P.E. to charge my credit card account the amount of \$150 in payment of the Application and Testing Fee for the C.P.E.S. Certification.

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Mail Application and Payment to:

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How to prepare for your online exam:

To prepare for the fifty (50) question online exam, study the IAPE Standards that can be found on the Web: http://www.IAPE.org/Standards_7-03/index.htm

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IN THE HEADLINES

various media

Euclid, Ohio

OHIO OFFICER KILLED HIMSELF: WAS TOLD CHARGES WERE IMMINENT

Charges were Related to Cash Missing from the Police Evidence Room

WEWS News reports on April 20, 2011 that Sgt. Kevin Blakeley, a 28 year veteran of the force, had just been notified that charges against him were imminent related to cash missing from the police evidence room. The Euclid police officer who committed suicide at his police station Wednesday was not cooperating with an investigation conducted by the sheriff's office and FBI, according to a statement from Euclid Mayor Bill Cervenik.

Sgt. Blakeley, was asked to meet with Police Chief James Repicky Wednesday, in regards to why he was not cooperating with the investigation.

"At the outset of this meeting, Sgt. Blakeley suddenly and tragically ended his own life with a self-inflicted wound from his police weapon," Cervenik said. "No words were spoken, and no altercation took place. This action occurred so quickly that the chief and the supervisors present had no chance to stop this tragic incident."

The investigation stemmed from a discovery by the department that records and property logs were not being properly maintained within the department. An internal audit was conducted, confirming that inconsistencies existed within the records.

Chief Repicky then asked the Cuyahoga County Sheriff, along with the help of the FBI, to investigate the mishandling of the records. That investigation has yet to be completed.

The News-Herald reports on April 21, 2011 that Euclid Police Detective Sgt. Kevin Blakeley, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound Wednesday, was meeting with Police Chief Jim Repicky and other supervisors at the time of the incident to address his failure to cooperate with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, said Euclid Mayor Bill Cervenik. "A few months ago, during a transfer of assignment of duties at the Euclid Police Department, it came to the attention of the incoming supervisory officer that certain records and property logs were not being maintained to the standards required by the Euclid Police Department. An internal audit was performed that confirmed irregularities existed," Cervenik said.

"In January, Chief Repicky moved quickly and appropriately, with my full knowledge and approval, in requesting that the Cuyahoga County sheriff

investigate the handling of the records and property in question."

On Wednesday morning, Blakeley was to meet with the chief and other supervisors to address his failure to cooperate with the Sheriff's Office and at the outset of the meeting, Blakeley "suddenly and tragically ended his own life with a self-inflicted wound from his police weapon," the mayor said.

The mayor said the Sheriff's Office, with technical assistance from the Cleveland office of the FBI, had not completed the investigation as of Thursday and therefore, no further comment would be made in reference to the investigation until its conclusion.



FOLLOW-UP

Euclid Police Memo Mysteriously Appears After Being Told It Didn't Exist

19 Action News on May 13, 2011 has uncovered new documents in the investigation inside the Euclid Police Department.

According to 19 Action News, Euclid Police made it hard for us to get our hands on it, but it shows sloppiness in protecting evidence from cases that goes back months and months. We filed a public records request and were given a memo from a cop to a boss. Big questions were raised in March about how Euclid Police control the room where they hold evidence. Evidence that helps decide if someone's guilty or not.

Last month Euclid leaders told us Sgt. Kevin Blakely killed himself. They say he did it in a meeting with supervisors about an investigation into the property room.

But the memo shows the mystery was more than about him. An officer wrote, "I do not recall seeing property log books in the last year. The sign in sheets folder has been removed. There was a long period where the door was broken also." It is not clear how this affects any cases. The Sheriff's Department is not talking but they are investigating. Euclid Police first said they didn't have any memos about it but now we have this and we plan to keep digging.

See next page for Editor's Commentary

HEADLINES COMMENTARY

By: Bob Giles, Evidence Log Editor

A Euclid, Ohio officer kills himself over pending discipline regarding missing evidence. Can a news headline get any worse? This headline is probably the most feared consequence any manager can imagine after confronting an employee with evidence of wrongdoing. Many of the facts in this case have not been released yet as there is still a criminal and a death investigation underway by the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. Keep in mind that Sgt. Blakely was never charged or convicted of any crime, yet the media strongly suspects that this is the sole reason for his suicide.

Documents obtained by the media under the Freedom of Information Act describe a security breach inside the evidence room and missing money that came to light as a result of a change assignment. This missing evidence appears to be the reason for the internal investigation that led to interview with Sgt. Blakely and the subsequent suicide.

More facts surrounding these events will eventually come to light, but the question all administrators must ask is, could cases such as this provide lessons for solid internal controls and closer management oversight? The employee has free will to make individual choices, but could proper guidance have discouraged making the wrong choice? - Ed.

Continued from page 26

WE GET MAIL... cont'd.



Dear Joe,

I have a new chief and who wants to have a key for the property room - what are your thoughts about this. Thanks.

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

If the Chief of Police wants a key to the evidence room, the Chief can generally have one, after all he/she is the Chief. Keeping in mind that very small agencies may be an exception, but most often having a key to the evidence room can cause two issues. First, all evidence room keyholders should be questioned in the event an evidence theft is discovered. That makes the Chief part of the investigation, which leads to problem number two. If there is a violation of policy, the Chief is generally the final arbiter before the appeals process. Being part of the investigation creates a conflict of interest that cannot be dismissed and someone else would have to perform this duty. Not a good idea.

IAPE Standard No. 8.2 discourages administrators from having access to the evidence room if they may be called upon to make decisions in an internal investigation regarding the evidence room. If the decision is made for any administrator to have access, they should always call upon a second person to enter with them as a witness and ensure the action is documented on the access log.

- Joe

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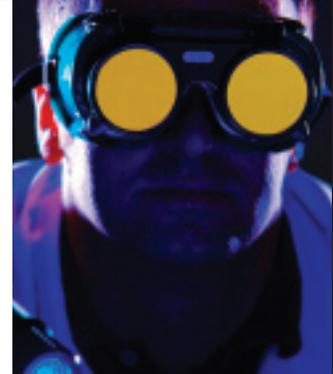
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SAY IT AIN'T SO, JOE

IED Found at Randleman Dam in Greensboro, NC

WFMY News 2 in Greensboro, NC reports on March 18th that an improvised explosive device was found at the Randleman Regional Reservoir.

Greensboro Police Chief Ken Miller said that the device was small, wasn't close to the dam and couldn't compromise the dam. But, he added, it was big enough it could have hurt people.

The Chief also said the device was put in the water at Randleman Lake not long ago. He went on to give a time from between a few days to a week or two ago. He said this was a device someone created to explode and could not have been a device used by construction or road crews.

At this point, the explosive device is at the property evidence room at the Greensboro Police Department. Because the device was found outside the county, with a

regional authority involved, there are many jurisdictions involved. Miller believes sometime this afternoon a decision will be made as to which agency will handle the case.

The device was found on the northeast shoreline of the reservoir. The device was secured utilizing the bomb robot and was rendered safe at the scene by 6 pm, according to the release. It was determined to be an actual IED.

Greensboro Police Chief Ken Miller told WFMY News 2 the device was a "small scale IED." He said describing it could hamper the investigation. "It's a pretty rare event to come across an actual bomb," Miller said. The bomb is now being stored as evidence. Level Cross Fire Department and EMS units from Randolph and Guilford Counties also responded to the scene.

I'm giving the Chief the benefit of the doubt that the news description is not entirely accurate. I am hoping that there is a designated location for explosives and that it is not inside the property and evidence room as reported above. Needless to say, explosives are not to be stored inside any occupied building, regardless of whether or not they have been rendered safe. Explosives should always be stored in a location where they will not endanger lives in the event that some other external force causes is to detonate. Depending upon the chemicals used, external forces might be a static electrical impulse, the shock from some other device going off, or it might spontaneously detonate as it degrades. Some explosive compounds become highly unstable as they degrade, while others are reasonably safe to handle. Don't make any assumptions regarding explosives unless you have been officially trained, your training is current, and you are ready to accept responsibility for your decisions. – Ed.

IN THE HEADLINES

Phoenix News Times

Phoenix, Arizona

PHOENIX DETECTIVE SUSPECTED OF STEALING OXY FROM EVIDENCE ROOM

The Phoenix New Times reports on March 8, 2011 that a detective from the Phoenix Police Department was arrested yesterday for allegedly stealing drugs from the department's evidence room.

The unidentified detective is a 12-year veteran of the force. According to police, the detective would steal Oxycontin that was scheduled to be destroyed. As if nobody would notice, the detective would replace it with the over-the-counter pain reliever Aleve.

Cops became hip to the detective's scam after conducting a routine audit of stored evidence. They suspect that in total, the detective tampered with 83 evidence bags, and stole about 2,400 pills. Authorities say it's unclear how long the detective's been ripping off evidence rooms, but say the investigation is ongoing.

Police say it's unlikely the tampered evidence will impact any criminal cases because the drugs were scheduled to be destroyed.

The detective was arrested yesterday after handing in his letter of resignation to his superiors. He faces charges of evidence tampering, theft, and drug possession.

Kudos to the department that has a requirement to audit drugs for destruction. Drugs that are scheduled for destruction are the evidence items that are most at risk of being stolen. Most persons think that the drugs won't be needed any more as an exhibit and are safer to steal those that have current court dates pending. This is generally true, which makes the handling of narcotics pending destruction that much more critical. – Ed.

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IN THE HEADLINES

The Associated Press State & Local Wire
June 14, 2011

Krotz Springs, Louisiana

KROTZ SPRINGS DISPATCHER, 2 INMATES ARRESTED

Authorities say a Krotz Springs Police Department dispatcher is accused of allowing two inmates into the police evidence room, where they took illegal drugs.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby J. Guidroz says dispatcher Amanda Nail has been booked with malfeasance and simple burglary.

Guidroz says the two inmates, Jessica Courville and Michael Stermer, were booked with simple burglary.

The sheriff tells The Advertiser Nall allegedly shut off the lights in the vicinity of the evidence room in an attempt to hide activity from security

cameras. Stermer allegedly pried open the door to the evidence room and, after the door was opened, Courville and Stermer entered the room and removed an undetermined amount of illegal narcotics.

Guidroz says the investigation remains open and an additional arrest is expected.

IN THE HEADLINES

Southeast Texas Record

May 9, 2011

INMATE ALLEGES PROPERTY OFFICER TOOK BELONGINGS

The Southeast Texas Record reports on May 9, 2011 that inmate Reidic Jackson has filed suit against the Mark Stiles Unit, a state prison, and its property officer, Anita Breaux, alleging his belongings were not transferred with him. Representing himself, Jackson filed the suit May 3 in Jefferson County District Court.

According to his hand-written suit, when Jackson was transferred to the William Clements Unit from the Mark Stiles Unit his property was not transferred with him and investigators claimed there was no inventory in his record. The suit does not state what property was taken from him but does allege the value of the loss totals \$7,500. Jackson alleges his constitutional rights were violated when his property was taken without notice, and he is suing for actual damages. Judge Donald Floyd, 172nd District Court, has been assigned to the case.

This is probably not the first time a jailhouse lawyer has sued a property officer, but every time one does, it should make all of our members think, what if it was me that was being sued? What are the chances that I would be found partly liable and have to pay court costs and attorney fees?

I suspect that the case against the property officer will be dismissed for lack of merit, but someone should have inventoried his property and that property should be accounted for somewhere. Although the type of property that was worth \$7,500 is not specified, there is a good chance that if the property was disposed of if it consists of a stolen shopping cart, a sleeping bag and numerous recyclables. A comprehensive written policy that requires personnel to discard soiled items that may bring biohazards, insects, or parasites into the facility may be helpful in protecting individual employees from making these decisions on a case-by-case basis. It's cheaper to pay for a sleeping bag claim than to fumigate a facility. – Ed

EVENTS OR TRENDS ?

Drug Drop-Off Box Exceeds Expectations

The West Central Tribune in Willmar, Minnesota reports on April 11, 2011 that nearly seven pounds of unused or out-dated prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs have been collected since the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Department set up a drop-box a month ago in the main lobby of the law enforcement center in Willmar. "It has exceeded our goals so far," said Sheriff Dan Hartog, adding that disposing of medications keeps them out of sewer systems and out of the hands of people -- including youth -- who may abuse drugs left in bathroom medicine shelves.

After receiving a permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency this winter, the sheriff's department used \$600 in drug forfeiture money to purchase the locked drop-box where medications can be deposited anonymously. The medications will be incinerated at an approved site in Fosston.

The "Take it to the Box" program allows disposal of both human and animal medications as well as illegal drugs. Needles are not accepted. It's recommended that medications remain in the original containers but the name of the patient and other identifying information should be scratched off. Hartog said some people have been putting pills in plastic bags before depositing them in the box.

The medications are removed from the box and inventoried daily by the sheriff's department before being stored in the evidence room. "We just want to keep track of what's being deposited and how much," said Hartog. So far the inventory list has filled six pages. When enough drugs have been collected Hartog said two officers will escort the medications to the incineration site. Assigning two officers to the duty is to ensure that the "chain of custody of the evidence" is safe-guarded, said Hartog.

The cost of maintaining the drop-box and transporting and disposing of the drugs is minimal, said Hartog, and will be paid for with the sheriff department's budget.



Drug Drop-Off Set in Police Station

The Muskogee Phoenix reports on April 28, 2011 that the Community Anti-drug Network and the Muskogee Police Department are planning a year-round drop-off site. A metal box will be placed in the Police Department's lobby at 112 S. Third Street. Approximately 102,000 pills were turned in during three public drug collections last year. Muskogee CAN prevention specialist Lindsey Roberts said prescription drugs collected from the site will be destroyed. It will reduce the amount of prescription drugs that might be stolen and misused, are not needed anymore, or are hazardous to take because they have passed their expiration date. The public will be able to drop off prescription drugs, no questions asked. They'll probably empty it about every couple of weeks, but we really have no idea what to expect," she said. "Hopefully it will be so successful that they have to empty it every week."

Law-enforcement personnel will take the drugs to a location in Tahlequah. The drugs will be incinerated by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. "They can't be thrown away and put in a landfill because they might leak and contaminate our ground water," Roberts said. "That's also why we ask people not to flush prescription drugs down the toilet."

Muskogee Police Department Deputy Chief Johnny Teehee said the box is an innovative approach. "There may be other people who have done it," Teehee said. "I think it's something that for the most part is relatively new." Cameras in the lobby will not be used to identify people who leave prescription drugs, Teehee said.

See related "In The Headlines" article on following page

IN THE HEADLINES

Chicago Tribune
By: Robert McCoppin

Kendall, Illinois
May 28, 2011

STAR YORKVILLE COP CHARGED WITH STEALING DRUGS

A deputy chief and rising star in the Yorkville Police Department was released on bail Saturday after he was charged with stealing painkillers from the department's drug collection program.

Dave Delaney posted \$2,500 to get out after spending the night in Kendall County Jail, said Deputy Craig French, spokesman for the Kendall County sheriff's office.

Delaney was charged Friday with possession of the addictive narcotic painkiller hydrocodone, a controlled substance, and theft of government property. Both charges are the least severe class of felony, punishable by one to three years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000, or probation.

Delaney had been named Officer of the Year by the Oswegoland Optimist Club in 1999, and though just 36, had risen through the ranks in Yorkville to become one of two deputy chiefs last year. "He's one of the best police officers I've ever dealt with," Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis said. "Just overall good police work."

Yorkville police had become suspicious that some of the unwanted and expired prescription drugs collected from the public were missing.

They contacted Illinois State Police, who conducted a weeklong investigation. They marked some hydrocodone pills, confronted Delaney on Friday, and found he had several of the pills on him, less than 200 grams, Weis said. He was cooperative, confessed and was arrested without incident, Weis said.

Delaney was placed on administrative leave Friday following his arrest, Yorkville Police Chief Rich Hart announced. While on this leave, Delaney is not permitted to act in his official capacity or identify himself as a Yorkville police officer.

Following the arrest, Yorkville police announced they are ending the public collection program for unwanted medications.

COMMENTARY

The use of drop-boxes for the disposal of out-of-date prescriptions can be a valued and safe disposal service that is provided by many law enforcement agencies to their communities, provided sufficient internal controls are in place. The most desirable aspects of these programs is that it prevents prescription drug abuse by youths who ransack the household medicine cabinets for "fishbowl pharm parties." Bowls and baggies of random pills often are called "trail mix," and on Internet chat sites, collecting pills from the family medicine chest is called "pharming." The pharmaceuticals most sought after are painkillers such as Vicodin or OxyContin or stimulants such as Ritalin or Adderall to get high.

The down side, if there is one, is that evidence personnel must take time to inventory and secure any narcotics that have been deposited in the drop box since the previous purge of the box. It is very important to institute strong internal controls and carefully follow policy that prevents narcotics from being taken.

In the event your department is considering such a drop-off program, there are several things to remember. It is most likely that you won't be able to document all of the submitted items due to sheer volume. However, if you can't document them, can you be accused of later pilfering them? You can't prove you didn't! If you don't document, you don't know what you're responsible for. I would suggest that any time drugs are dropped off they are deposited in a secure box / container that is controlled with two keys (2 person rule). Possibly one person from evidence and another independent party.

When the items are transferred to the evidence room the two key holders open the box and move the contents into another container, with two locks. The property room container would also have two keys and require two people to open it when the drugs are scheduled for destruction.

Should your department implement any such program make sure you develop a written policy that clearly defines everyone's responsibilities. – Ed.

THE "KEY" TO GOOD SECURITY: CONTROL DUPLICATION & ACCESSIBILITY

D.A. SAYS WEST PENNSYLVANIA POLICE HAD MISSING MONEY AND EVIDENCE

Associated Press - Lebanon Daily News

A prosecutor says officers at a western Pennsylvania police department should be made to take lie detector and drug tests after money and evidence was found missing from its evidence room.

Washington County District Attorney Steve T. says record-keeping at the California Borough police department was poor and that *too many officers had keys to the room* where more than \$1,600 and a large amount of marijuana seized by police are missing.

Former police Chief Rick E. is suing the borough over his demotion. His attorney, Keith M., says he doesn't know of any cases being dismissed due to the missing evidence.

count of felony entering without breaking into the Mabscott Police Department. "Because that was a police evidence room, every piece of evidence in that room became tainted the minute you opened that door, said the Circuit Court Judge.



THREE 17-YEAR-OLD BOYS STEAL MARIJUANA FROM EVIDENCE LOCKER

PoliceStore.com

Cedar City, Utah - Three 17-year-old St. George boys, one the son of a Utah Highway Patrol trooper, have been arrested for investigation into the thefts of more than 23 pounds of marijuana from the UHP's evidence locker in Cedar City.

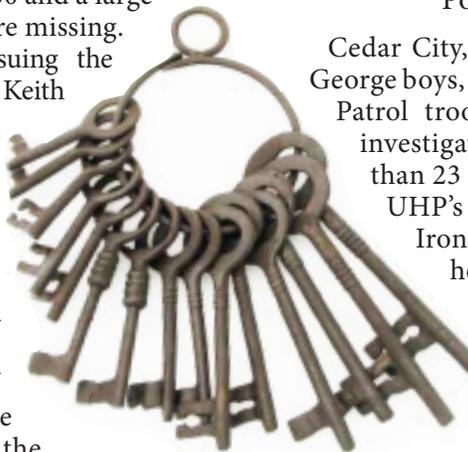
Iron County authorities are unsure how many criminal cases may have been compromised by the thefts. Only some of the marijuana has been recovered.

The teens were booked into juvenile detention for investigation of burglary, theft, evading arrest, drug possession, tampering with evidence and obstruction of justice. The youth who was the son of a trooper *purportedly filched his father's keys to get access* to the building.

The youths were arrested after the latest theft from the evidence locker. A police officer tried to stop a suspicious car outside the UHP's Cedar City office and the occupants fled. After a short chase, the occupants bailed out of the car and tried escape on foot. Officers arrested two of the teens a short time later and a third was arrested the next day.

Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were found. The locker was burglarized first between October and January and again on February 27. Authorities initially began questioning people within the patrol's Cedar City office who had access to the building.

Deputies refused to release the name of the trooper whose keys were taken, but said he was unaware of his son's alleged involvement until the arrests. The patrol said Tuesday it was cooperating with the Iron County sheriff's investigation but did not anticipate any disciplinary action against the trooper whose keys were taken.



EX-FERGUSON OFFICER GETS PRISON FOR STEALING MONEY

DailyTimes - State College, Pennsylvania

A former Ferguson Township detective was ordered to spend up to a year on the other side of the bars for stealing \$3,500 from the Department's evidence room.

J.M. joined the department in 1995 and was named a detective in 1998. He then became the department's evidence custodian and was given one of two restricted-use keys for the evidence room.

In November 2000, J.M. *ordered duplicates of those keys made*, turning in the originals before he left the department on January 5 to move back to Virginia. Police said that two weeks later, he talked with two former colleagues in the department's parking lot, and after they left, used his duplicate keys to enter the building and take the cash.



WIFE OF POLICE CAPTAIN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAKING EVIDENCE CASH

Associated Press - Beckley, West Virginia

The wife of a small-town police captain has pleaded guilty to *using her husband's keys to steal money from the department's evidence room*, ruining dozens of cases.

C.K., 33, pleaded guilty on Thursday to one

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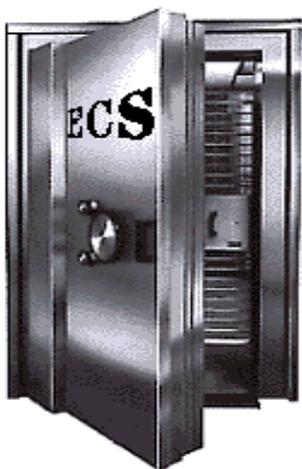


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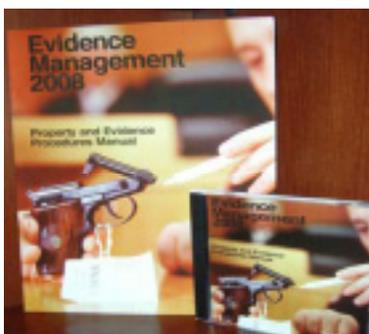
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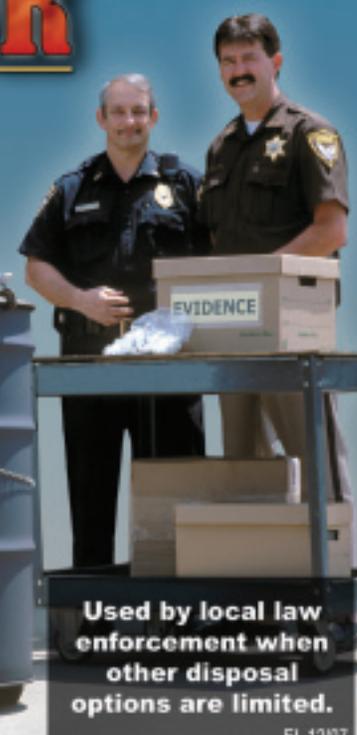
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PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

DNA Leads Cops to Bike-Theft Suspect

Berwyn man arrested after lab analyzes blood from burglary scene

The Chicago Tribune reports on May 4, 2011 that a DNA analysis was used to catch a bike thief. As far as crimes go, the caper was small change. Someone broke a garage window last year in River Forest and made off with a bicycle.

But that didn't stop River Forest police from using a high-tech technique that has cracked many major murder and rape cases — and now a bike theft: a DNA test.

The crucial clue was a trace of blood on a drape near the broken window, police said. River Forest interim Chief Gregory Weiss said Wednesday that detectives believed the burglar may have cut himself while breaking the glass.

Spotted by evidence technicians, the blood was

sent to the Illinois State Police crime lab, which notified the village last month of a possible suspect. Police camped outside the Berwyn home of Jose Bautista, 23, who was arrested Tuesday and charged with burglary, police said.

Bautista plead guilty last year to one count of aggravated DUI without having a valid license and was placed on 18 months of probation, records show.

The DNA sample took almost 10 months to process, but Weiss said that wasn't unusual, because forensics labs place a higher priority on violent crimes. Still, "it's not uncommon" to use DNA evidence in property crime cases, said Master Sgt. Isaiah Vega of the Illinois State Police.

=====

The PAST

DNA typing, since it was introduced in the mid-1980s, has revolutionized forensic science and the ability of law enforcement to match perpetrators with crime scenes and crime scene with other crime scenes. Thousands of cases have been closed and innocent suspects freed with guilty ones punished because of the power of a silent biological witness at the crime scene.

These changes are dramatically impacting property rooms in that the statutes of limitations are rapidly changing and requiring some department to retain homicide and sexual assault evidence forever! Historically, DNA has solved some of the most aggravated crime. As of April 2011, CODIS has produced over 142,700 hits assisting in more than 137,100 investigations.

The PRESENT

During the past seven – eight (Justice for All Act - 2004) years millions of dollars have been granted to local and state law enforcement agencies and crime labs to alleviate the back-logs of untested sexual kits and other biological evidence. In some jurisdictions the back-logs are still a problem due to funding problems and accreditation issue. However, in some communities the labs have been able to overcome their back-log issue and are available to work lesser important crimes such as burglaries and auto-theft? Solving property crimes has also proved to have tremendous impact on the more serious as this type of criminal is quite likely to elevate their activities to significantly more dangerous crimes.

The FUTURE

As we look into the future what type of crimes will be able to solve? It is suggested that in the future, and with appropriate funding, law enforcement will be able to solve almost any crime if the suspect touched something as the crime scene. In fact the future may be here today. I recently ran "DNA and vandalism arrests in Google" and found it to be replete with recent new stories about persons arrested for vandalism. What does this mean to the property room managers? A bigger warehouse and more personnel? - Ed.



CONGRATULATIONS!



to all of our recently designated
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Sweeny, Beatriz A.	Yuma County Sheriff	Arizona
Lopez, Airel	Yuma County Sheriff	Arizona
O'Connor, James E.	Stoughton Police Dept.	Massachusetts
Armstrong, Christopher K.	Fort Thomas Police Dept.	Kentucky
Mummert, Robert	St. Louis Metro Police Dept.	Missouri
Debisschop, James	St. Louis Metro Police Dept.	Missouri
Scheetz, Mark	St. Louis Metro Police Dept.	Missouri
Etter, Jennifer	Hudson Oaks Police Dept.	Texas
Winters, Heather L.	Hamilton County Sheriff	Tennessee
Rich, Anthony	Duluth Police Dept.	Minnesota
Bizzell, Chalita	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office	Florida
Stuckless, Sheldon	Halton Regional Police Service	Ontario, Canada
Townsend, Valorie A.	Pinal County Sheriffs Office	Arizona
Rogers, Donna L.	Columbia Police Dept.	Tennessee
Landers, Amanda E.	Titusville Police Dept.	Florida
Artman, Joseph P.	Washington County Sheriff's Office	Maryland
Drew, Michael	University of Hartford Dept of Public Safety	Connecticut
Isackson, Erik	Duluth Police Dept.	Minnesota
Mangan, Jennifer M.	Duluth Police Dept.	Minnesota
Ing, Damon	Saginaw Police Dept.	Texas
Davis, Bruce H.,	Greenwood Village Police Dept.	Colorado
Correia, Lisa	Idaho State Police	Idaho
Schneider, Daniel J.	Charlotte Police Dept.	Michigan
McDanel, Mark G.	Ferguson Police Dept.	Missouri
Foldager, Melissa	State of Alaska	Alaska

Bits and Pieces

This page is designed for members who would like to publicize up-coming property and evidence related events. Please contact us via the web-site if you have something to include for the future.

PROPERTY ASSOCIATION WEBSITES

International Association for Property & Evidence
www.iape.org

Arizona Association for Property and Evidence
www.azape.org

Arkansas Association for Property and Evidence
www.arproperty.org

California Association for Property & Evidence
www.cape-inc.us

Colorado Association of Property & Evidence Technicians
www.capet.com

Property & Evidence Association of Florida
www.peaf.net

Illinois Association of Property and Evidence Managers
www.iapem.org

Nebraska Association of Property & Evidence
www.ne-nape.com

North Carolina Association of Property & Evidence
www.ncape.net

Texas Association of Property,
 Evidence & Identification Technicians
www.tapeit.net

New Mexico Association for Property & Evidence ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: September 15 - 16, 2011

Where: Sandia Courtyard Hotel
 Albuquerque, NM

*For more more info. please contact
 the hotel: (800) 449-4273*

Nebraska Association of Property and Evidence ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: September 2011 - exact dates TBA

Where: Papillon, Nebraska

*For more more info. and details, visit:
www.ne-nape.com*

Texas Association of Property & Evidence Technicians ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When: October 18 - 21, 2011

Where: Omni Southpark Hotel
 Austin, TX

*For more more info. and details, visit:
www.tapeit.net*

Please refer to Page 25 for the most current schedule of up-coming IAPE classes.

C.P.E.S. Recertification Requirements

C.P.E.S. initial certification is valid for a period of 5 years. To maintain certification, C.P.E.S. designees must complete continuing training during the five year period. The I.A.P.E. Board of Directors has established the following criteria for recertification:

- Continued dues paid membership in I.A.P.E.
- Completion of continuing education through 1 of 2 options:
 1. Attendance of another 2 day "Property & Evidence Management" course during the 5 year period (for a class schedule go to: <http://iape.org/classes/classRegistration.php>)
 2. Completion of On-Line Video Training (equivalent to class attendance) Found at: http://iape.org/pdfFiles/20081129_CPES_Online_Class_Registration_Form.pdf
- Submission of a Recertification Application along with payment (\$100) and proof of completion of required training.

NOTE: Recertification is for another 5 year period.

(Recertification application can be found at: http://iape.org/pdfFiles/20081129_Recert_Application_FormFill_v5.pdf)

Questions: Billing or payment for recertification or classes, call I.A.P.E. at: 1-800-449-4273
Technical questions regarding the online classes, call Kiley Associates at: 1-631-628-2823



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The validity of the data provided by the BEAST is the ultimate concern of any agency. With any computer-based system data entry mistakes will occur. By utilizing user-based security and embedded audit tracking, the BEAST can control who is allowed to modify previously saved data and track exactly what that user changed. Every modification is time-stamped and recorded with the user's name, PC they utilized, and both the original value and the new value as recorded.

Digital Documents

Agencies are always looking to reduce the filing and warehousing of paper records, but in law enforcement some level of paper is required. The issue is making those paper records easily accessible and convenient for those looking for them. With the BEAST system, digital images from scanners and cameras can be linked and annotated to the specific digital record they represent. This could be at the case level, the individual or the exhibit level. Digital media files such as .DOC, .XLS, .PDF, .MP3, and .WAV can also be linked to these records.

Integration

The BEAST system has been designed to integrate with many other systems utilized in law enforcement. The following are samples of the types of interfaces currently in use by the BEAST: CAD/RMS, LIMS, DNA Robotics, GC/MS, Mugshot, CODIS, Auto Pound, Court Management and in-house systems. Our application designers can customize an interface for you as well.

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