

Law Enforcement Safety Handbook

Unusual Weapons,
Concealment Methods for
Contraband & Things that
Make You Wonder Why
You Ever Became a Cop



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This book would not have been possible without the assistance of police and public safety agencies. Information shared to promote the safety of officers often passes through many hands along the way and I apologize to any officer or agency I may have failed to acknowledge. All efforts in adding to this handbook are greatly appreciated.

Contributing Agencies:

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U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Peel Regional Police (Canada)
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
LA CLEAR (Los Angeles, California)
MTA Interagency Counter-terrorism Task Force (NYC)
NYC HIDTA Gang Unit (New York)
Chicago HIDTA (Illinois)
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Vice and Narcotics Detectives (North Carolina)
Baltimore County Fire Department (Maryland)
Scarborough Police Department (Maine)
South Portland Police Department (Maine)
Auburn Police Department (Maine)
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*****Many of the weapons shown in this book have websites listed where the items can be purchased or viewed. At the time this book was compiled all sites were active.**

Firearms,
Fakes
&
Accessories

1)

Color Coatings for Firearms:

The CERAKOTE FIREARMS COATING SYSTEM is available through numerous websites and allows for color finishes on handguns and rifles. The system is marketed as a corrosion protection finish and is available for \$200 to \$400 per weapon. Coloring of firearms makes it harder to identify real firearms from toys or pellet guns and red or blue finishes could easily be mistaken as training or simunition weapons in the field.

Two of the websites featuring this service are: www.larsontactical.com/id1.html, & http://glockmeister.com/catalog/product_info.php/cPath/14/products_id/376



The Finest Firearm Finish On The Planet!



The Finest Firearm Finish On The Planet!



The Complete Firearm Camouflage System



2)

Survival Gun:

In December of 2005 the RCMP in British Columbia located what appeared to be a plastic rifle stock in a backpack during a vehicle stop. Investigation found the plastic cap to the rifle butt popped off to show all other working parts for the firearm were stored inside.

This is an **AR7 Explorer by Charter Arms**. It is a .22 caliber rifle and fires .22 short rounds. Further research indicates police departments along the New England coast have run into this weapon many times over the last few years, often being carried on fishing and lobster boats by mariners. The weapon is waterproof and floats.



3)

Able to Penetrate Most Body Armor & Ballistic Helmets:

The **FN Five-seveN® pistol** is capable of defeating most soft body armor as well as ballistic helmets. This info is from the RCMP & the FIU of Canada who advise organized crime members in Ontario & Quebec and local criminal elements are actively seeking possession of these firearms. This is the new generation of the WWII Browning Hi Power weapon. The new model is a 20 round pistol made in Belgium that fires a 5.7 mm bullet that will defeat most body armor used by the military and law enforcement today. It brings the type of performance that was previously confined to rifles or carbines.



High magazine capacity: The Five-seveN® comes standard with 20-round magazine.

High stopping power: The Five-seveN® fires the 5.7x28mm SS190 Ball round which reliably penetrates Kevlar helmets and vests as well as CRISAT protection.

High hit probability: The Five-seveN's® extremely low recoil impulse results in virtually no muzzle climb, thereby facilitating fast and controllable follow-up shots.

From the Internet:

The FN Five-seveN® is Light & Ergonomic: It weighs 30% less than most 9 mm pistols.

Fully Safe: Due to its double-action firing mechanism, the Five-seveN® offers no inherent risk of accidental discharge during transportation. Furthermore, all of its safety devices are automatically reengaged following each firing cycle.

The Five-seveN® fires the SS190 5.7x28 mm ball round. This projectile will perforate any individual protection on today's battlefield including the PASGT Kevlar helmet & 48 layers of Kevlar body armor. The SS190's conventional design allows it to be manufactured on existing production lines and its lead-free composition eliminates range contamination.

It can be purchased online at www.calssportingarmory.com for \$854.

4)

Maglight Shotgun

The ARES Defense Systems Company is currently selling a Mag-Light which is actually a .410 shotgun. The weapon is called the "Companion" and is a working flashlight capable of firing a .410 shotgun round. It works by removing a safety pin and can then be fired by a spring loaded firing pin. The projectile exits through the end cap.

This weapon can be purchased on the Internet. It is also available in the Mini-Mag size which fires a .380 round.

ARES Mag-Light .410 Shotgun



5)

Key Ring Gun:

This weapon appears to be a common key ring or MP3 player and may be carried in a pocket or around a neck. It is extremely light weight and can be separated in two parts, the double barrel (silver section) and the firing pin mechanism (black section).

The trigger mechanism is cocked by simply pulling the key ring section to the rear and raising the two trigger buttons which can be fired separately. (This mechanism may be prone to unintentional discharges.)

New South Wales, Australia seized over 900 of these guns recently in a raid. All were ready for distribution. A further 2500 parts ready for assembly were also recovered, but unfortunately it is believed a large number had already made their way into circulation.

The firearm uses .32 automatic rounds and has an accuracy range of about 2600 ft. It costs in the area of \$2000.

This key gun does NOT show up in Airport screening.



6)

Cigarette Pack Gun:

The Cigarette Pack Gun is usually a single-shot weapon of varying calibers. Although much heavier than a normal cigarette packet, this weapon is visually difficult to distinguish from the genuine article. Real cigarettes will often be inserted next to the barrel and the firing button is concealed beneath the packet's label. In addition the paper packaging can be kept closed concealing the barrel, but not hindering the operation of the weapon.

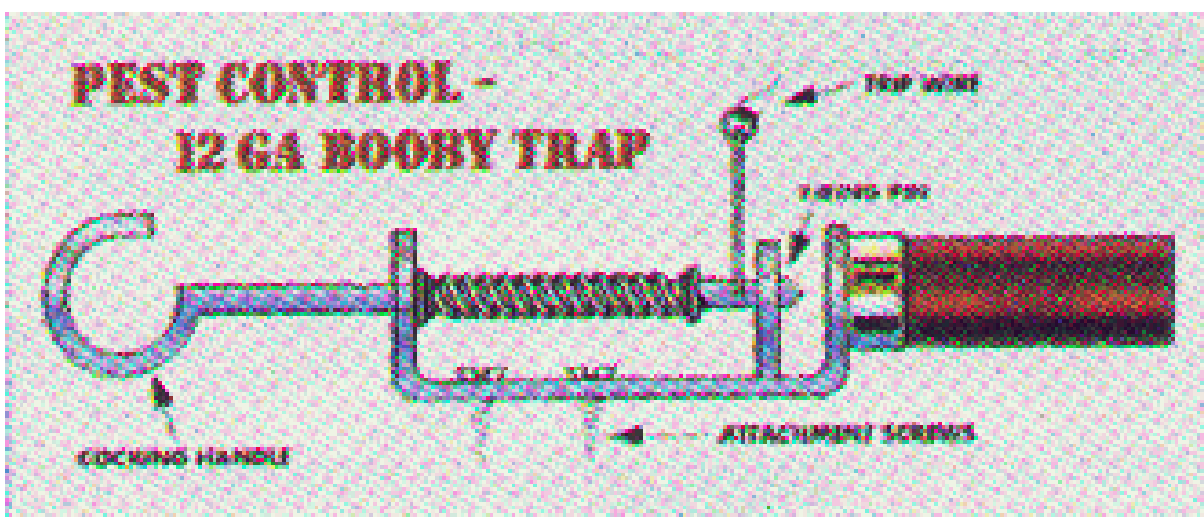
Any brand of cigarette or cigar packaging could be used with this device.



12-Gauge Booby Trap Alarm:

This perimeter security device can be attached anywhere with only 2 screws. When activated by a trip wire the firing pin is released, firing a 12 gauge blank cartridge. This is designed to scare away unwanted visitors or trespassers; however the cartridge can easily be replaced with a real 12-gauge round and would become deadly to anyone tripping the guide wire.

This unit is made of steel and is reusable. It is available at www.espionage-store.com for \$59.99.



7)

Zip Gun:

While conducting routine cell searches at the Correctional Center of Canada in Kingston, Ontario officers discovered the Zip Gun shown below.

The gun was constructed as follows:

- 1) The barrel was constructed from aluminum pop cans rolled to form the barrel and then wrapped in string to add strength and stability to the barrel
- 2) The grip was constructed from a deodorant container
- 3) The chamber was fabricated from melted plastic with a port opening to allow for the firing mechanism
- 4) Match heads were used as a propellant
- 4) The projectiles were made from metal shards of pop cans and the internal metal parts of lighters
- 6) The inmate who made the gun had designed a unique electronic firing mechanism
- 7) The mechanism was designed using an electronic stopwatch which was modified to expose electrical contacts. An electrical current was produced when the watch button was pressed
- 8) Electrical wires then were passed through a port opening in the barrel. When pressed an electrical spark is produced in the chamber which contains the match heads, wadding and projectiles.



8)

.38 Caliber Flare Gun

The adapter shown here converts a plastic 12-gauge flare gun into a .38 Caliber pistol. It is available at www.CaptainForHire.com at a cost of \$75.

The website calls it a “must have tool for hunting, fishing or self-defense.” It also calls it a “no hassle way to carry a weapon onto an airplane or through security points.”

This Flare gun is legal to possess as it does not qualify as a firearm.



9)

Homemade Steel Pipe Shotgun:

From the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi Police Department:
A shooting occurred in Bay St. Louis on 3-9-05 where a known drug dealer was shot during an argument over a crack cocaine transaction.

The weapon was a homemade STEEL PIPE SHOTGUN.

It was made by wrapping a pipe in duct tape. The shotgun shell was jammed into one end of the pipe with a BB held in place over the primer with duct tape. The weapon was fired by hitting the BB with a metal hatchet.



Bolt Pistol:

This unusual 'pistol' has been around for a long time, but similar ones keep turning up and it's worth a reprint.

This weapon is a homemade .22 caliber gun that fires a single .22 caliber stinger. To use the firearm you only need to pull back on the spring-loaded hex-head of the bolt.

The weapon is about 5/8 inches in diameter and 4 inches long. The only way to distinguish it from a standard bolt is the barrel hole on the end of the threaded portion and the machined groove just under the hex-head where it rests on the bolt shaft.



10)

Select Fire Conversion Device:

Conversion units can be found online at multiple sites, including www.sportshooter.com.

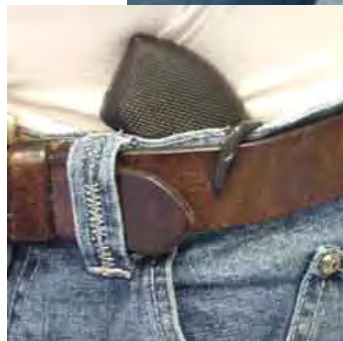
The one shown here is offered as: "The first true drop in select fire device for Glock and Berettas 92 Series handguns". They advertise that installation takes only 10 seconds and can turn any Glock or Beretta into a select fire "machine pistol". Some of the websites selling the conversion devices show video that appears to back this claim. The companies offer the device to any US Law Enforcement Officers as well as to any foreign countries who do not have laws banning it; however it appears compliance is voluntary. The cost is from \$310 to \$350. and they claim no tools or gunsmithing ability is needed to make the conversion.



Coathanger Holster:

Shown here is a device sometimes called the "Jamaican Holster". It was recently found on a subject in NYC who has connections to the "Jamaican Posse". It is made with a simple wire coat hanger and makes for an easy and lightweight way to 'holster' a gun on the inside of a waistband.

(After this was highlighted in the Brunswick, Maine Crime Bulletin a call was received from a senior officer in a neighboring town who advised the coat hanger holsters had been regularly used by undercover officers in major cities in the 60's & 70's to hide their duty weapons.)



11)

Garment Concealer:

The hanger shown here is designed solely for the purpose of concealing a handgun. It is manufactured with a bronze brush extending from the center of the hanger which is inserted in the barrel of the weapon to hang it.

It is designed solely for the purpose of concealing a handgun.

According to the website, the design "allows you to conceal a firearm by covering it with a garment".

Please keep this in mind while executing search warrants or while searching luggage.



Under the Desk Holster:

The holster shown here can be purchased on EBAY. It is designed to be placed under a dashboard or desk.

The pad has a glue surface that, when the protective paper is removed, will stick to glass, plastic, cloth, wood, metal, etc.

The holster also has Velcro so you can remove it from the mounting pad and take it with you.

It will carry any size handgun and allows for a left or right hand draw.



12)

The Ultimate Briefcase Gun:

This is the ENIGMA "AOW" briefcase gun. It is advertised as "The ultimate Executive Protection/Homeland Security/Self Defense device for today's unpredictable world" and sells for \$1695. The design features a fully functional six shot .22LR revolver incorporated in a handle designed around a professional appearing briefcase. The roomy case provides plenty of space for paperwork and personal property. The double action revolver with the briefcase handle trigger allows firing 6 shots as fast as the trigger can be pulled. Because the firearm is carried like a regular briefcase, the barrel is always at a proper offensive height. The briefcase is available to security services, law enforcement and any "qualified" individuals through Armament Services International Inc. at www.autoweapons.com.



AM/FM Radio Gun Concealer:

This photo of an AM/FM RADIO that clips to the belt and fully conceals a weapon or contraband has been forwarded from the RCMP.

It bears mentioning that this radio is fully functional even with the firearm inside. It comes with earphones.



13)

Weapon Wallet:

Shown here is a wallet/holster that carries a Beretta semi-automatic .25 cal. with a detachable magazine. Similar wallets can be found online to fit nearly any small firearm. Note that the leather holster/wallet has a hole in it to allow the pistol to be fired while still enclosed in the wallet. A holster similar to this was recently bought online by the father of a Brunswick, Maine police officer. The wallet measures 4" x 5". Similar ones can be bought online for as little as \$21.99 (without the gun).

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives in Salt Lake City advises possession of one of these wallets with a firearm in it is illegal. Obviously there would be the concealed weapons charge; however possession of the wallet is an additional charge under the National Firearms Act 26USC 5861 as "Any Other Weapon".

There have been convictions on this charge reference these wallets so there is precedent. If you have any questions reference firearms laws you can contact the NFA Information Branch at 202-927-8330. (This number is for use by law enforcement only, do not release it to the general public.)



14)

Souvenirs from Iraq:

On February 10, 2005 an officer in Tennessee stopped a vehicle for speeding. When the driver opened the glove box a chrome finished pistol fell out. The officer drew his weapon and called for backup; however the driver continued to reach for the firearm and stopped only when he realized the officer was about to shoot. The 'weapon' that the driver almost lost his life over turned out to be a cigarette lighter that had ALL THE FEATURES & MARKINGS of the Beretta it appeared to be.

The Tennessee town where the traffic stop took place is near a military base and interviews with base personnel found many of them had brought the gun lighters back from Iraq as souvenirs.

After this info was posted in the Crime Analysis Bulletin in Brunswick, Maine – two police departments in Southern Maine advised they had also come across similar Beretta lighters that were being displayed by veterans who had recently returned from Iraq. It appears thousands of these cigarette lighter weapons have been brought back to the states in the last two years and are most likely in many homes.



15)

The Mini:

The Liberator 9mm pistol is the size of a credit card and is considered the smallest pistol available. It is 2.25" high x 3.30" long.

It can be purchased online without restriction for \$325. at <http://stingerpenqun.com/knifegun.htm>



LIBERATOR 9MM PISTOL

Pocket Clip .22 Cal. Handgun:

In March of 2004 a South Carolina State Police (STAR) Unit stopped a pickup for an inspection sticker violation. As he approached the passenger side of the truck he noticed that the driver and passenger were making suspicious movements and appeared to be attempting to conceal something. Both were very nervous and would not make eye contact. After finishing the paperwork, the Trooper asked for a consent search. Located in the driver's side panel of the door was this .22 cal. North American Arms pistol that folds in half. If clipped to your pocket it would look like a pager or cellphone.

This weapon can be found online at www.naaminis.com.



Credit Card Shotgun:

A Minneapolis, Minnesota gun shop debut a **CREDIT CARD SIZED SHOTGUN** in October of 2004. It is a two-shot weapon made from a piece of metal the height and width of a standard credit card and about one half inch thick. The gun retails at \$100. and each barrel fires seven standard steel pellets. The owner of Koscielski's Guns and Ammo in Minneapolis advertises it as "the ultimate self-defense weapon". It is being manufactured by AFT Incorporated in Minnesota.

The makers state it as meant to be used for close range self defense. It is very effective at 10' but totally useless at 20'. The shotgun is a muzzleloader and does not use shells. The user has to measure out gunpowder, pour it in each barrel, drop seven pellets into each barrel and tamp in a small wad of paper. A knob at one end serves as a safety and 2 buttons set into a hole in the body are the electrical triggers. Each barrel fires with a loud pop. The manufacturer advertises that the weapon is no more deadly than a .22 cal., but you have multiple wounds, causing more pain and more blood loss.

THE NEW GUN DOES NOT COUNT AS A FIREARM UNDER FEDERAL REGULATIONS BECAUSE IT IS MUZZLELOADED; however it is illegal to carry one without a permit for a concealed handgun.



Bangstick - Adapted for Pocket or Neck:

In 2002 a deputy sheriff in Palm Beach County Florida arrested a man who was in possession of a "bangstick," measuring 4-5/8" in length with a 1-3/4" barrel and capable of firing either a single .38 cal. short, .38 special or .357 magnum cartridge. This device is intended for use by fishermen and scuba divers to kill sharks and alligators. When used in such a way it is attached to a threaded pole and then used as a prod to hit the target. A very slight tap at the end of the barrel will cause the device to discharge.

The "bangstick" is considered a firearm. ATF has classified this device as an "*any other weapon*" that is prosecutable by 10 years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines under Title 26, Section 5871. These devices can be found at almost any scuba or diving accessories shop.

Officers should be extremely cautious when handling these devices; they can discharge simply by being tapped on the barrel end. In addition, its appearance is deceiving and can lead an officer to discount it as a dangerous weapon. It is a triggerless device that can easily be mistaken for a tool or some other harmless article.



Cell Phone Gun:

At first sight this looks like a regular cell phone, same size, same shape, same overall appearance, but beneath the digital face lies a .22 caliber pistol. The phone gun is capable of firing 4 rounds in quick succession with a touch of the otherwise standard keypad.

The guns are loaded by twisting the phone in half. The rounds fit into the top of the phone under the readout screen and the lower half, under the keyboard, holds the firing pins. The bullets fire through the antenna by pressing the keypad from numbers 5 to 8.

The phone guns are being manufactured in Croatia and Yugoslavia and are sophisticated machines constructed to fit inside gutted cell phones.

The gun phones are significantly heavier than real cell phones and do not operate or have lighted screens. The gun parts will also show up in an xray.



18)

Knife/Gun:

These photos are of a knife that is also a .22 cal pistol. The weapon was taken from an ex-con being arrested for POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON and this second weapon was discovered during the incident. Thanks to Crook CO Sheriff's Office in Prineville, Oregon for this info, along with Bill Schneider of the US AG's Office.



Fabulous Fakes – Can You Tell The Difference?

These are gas & spring powered BB guns now available on line.



SIG SAUER P228



COLT 25 S



SNIPER RIFLE



M-16



MP 5

Incredibly Realistic Replica Weapons:

During the months of October and November of 2002 several incidents were covered by the police in Brunswick, Maine where replica handguns were found either on a suspect or in their vehicles. (In two of these cases the suspects involved were convicted felons.)

This 'replica' phenomenon appears to be escalating and it bears mentioning that many of these weapons are made of metals that are **EXTREMELY** realistic. A replica Glock seized in November had the same characteristics AND WEIGHT of a real weapon and the only way an untrained eye could tell the difference would be to look down the barrel.



Knives
&
Cutting
Instruments

20)

Double Blade Fighting Knife:

This is a brass knuckle style double blade fighting knife. It was purchased at an Army/Navy Surplus Store in Scarborough, Maine in May of 2005 for \$23.99. This weapon is legal to carry as long as it is not concealed.

It was purchased at an Army/Navy Surplus Store in Scarborough, Maine in May of 2005 for \$23.99. This weapon is legal to carry as long as it is not concealed.



Throwing Blades:

The three-bladed throwing knife shown here was confiscated in Union County, New Jersey in January, 2006 from a 15 year old girl who was walking down the street drinking from a bottle of brandy. This knife is called the "Cylone Throwing Knife" and is available online at www.throwingstar.net for \$12.99.



Some of the other throwing stars and knives available at this website are shown below and can be purchased starting at \$3.99.



5 1/2" Cross - \$7.99



Typhoon Star - \$12.99

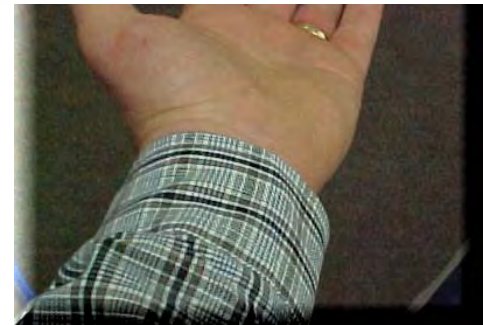
Moon Star - \$5.49



Throwing Knife Sheath:

Also available at www.throwingstar.net are the knives and sheath shown here. Amazingly, both the knives and the sheath are available for \$3.99!

The RCMP in Alberta, Canada reports they have ongoing problems with hundreds of similar sheaths being sold to BOTH juveniles and adults at sporting goods stores for about the same price as they are offered on the Internet. The Velcro sleeve attaches to either the wrist or leg and holds one or more knives that are then easily concealed under clothing.



23)

Throwing Cards:

The cards (shown here) are made of metal and are the size of regular playing card. All four corners and sides are razor sharp. These too are available at www.throwingstar.net under the name ROYAL FLUSH THROWING KNIFE CARDS. A five card pack can be purchased for \$19.99.

Shown below is another version of a throwing card with razor edges. It is available at www.pebbleco.com for \$21.99.

One of these cards was recently recovered by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in Washington State where an officer found it on a student in a junior high school.



24)

Belt Buckles:

Another interesting website is www.pebbleco.com. It has many interesting items including the throwing star belt buckle shown here which is available for \$16.95 along with the knife buckle shown below for \$8.95.

Also available on this site are throwing knives, crossbows, blowguns, pinhole cameras, gasmasks, lock picks, scanners & can safes.



26)

Killer Kitty Keychain:

These cute dog & cat keychains are not toys, but are in fact a very serious defense weapon. The design has been around for years, but the technology has gotten better. They are now made of an ultra-tough plastic material that is very hard to break and does NOT show up on an Airport Scanner.

This product is available at www.selfdefenseproducts.com for \$5.50.



Knife/Cuff Key:

The ASP Company, which is known for manufacturing the ASP Baton and other law enforcement equipment, is now producing a folding knife that appears to be an ordinary key. The key also contains a hidden handcuff key.

Although this item can be a useful tool for law enforcement, it can also be easily concealed by a subject who wishes to escape from confinement and/or cause injury to law enforcement officials.



Ceramic Knife:

This is the latest thing in gourmet cooking – **CERAMIC KNIVES**. They are now being sold over the Internet as well as on TV via the Home Shopping Network and QVC. They come in sizes ranging from 2" paring to 8" butcher knives. The good news for culinary experts is that they are razorblade sharp and do not dull easily....the bad news for police officers is that they are readily available, inexpensive and do not show up with security wands and metal detectors.



Motorcycle Oil Tank Dipstick Knife:

An officer in Cumru Township, Pennsylvania reported to the Calibrepress.Com Newsline (a valuable website serving police agencies with information on weapons, training, law updates, etc.) the existence of this 'oil tank knife' that can be purchased to replace the dipstick on Harley Davidson motorcycles. The dipstick is located on the right side of the motorcycle just under the seat. The model shown below is available for most Harley bikes and can be purchased on the internet.



Sword Canes:

The next time you see someone with a walking cane please keep these photos in mind. The 2' long sword is slightly serrated on one side and is completely undetectable inside the hard plastic or wood cane casings.



These and dozens of other styles of sword canes are available at

www.laguirole-southwest.com for \$80-\$500.

29)

The Lipstick Knife:

An Indianapolis, Indiana school teacher confiscated this "lipstick knife" from a 9-year-old girl in her class. It seems the girl had brought it to school to "cut up" one of her friends. The lipstick knife is widely available through mail order catalogs.



Cell Phone Knife:

This cell phone knife was highlighted in February of 2006 by the MTA Police in New York City.

There was no explanation of the circumstances around it's use; however one look at the blade gives you an idea of how dangerous it could be.



30)

Baton Knife:

A patrolman in Clarksville, Tenn. was conducting a recent DUI stop when he noticed a device resembling a small baton in the car.

Once opened, the baton was found to be a container for 15" double edged sword blades.



Door Plate Knife:

The U.S. Penitentiary in Beaumont Texas located this knife that was made from a door striker plate following an altercation in December of 2005. The weapon was sharpened to a point, nearly 8" long and could have been deadly.



31)

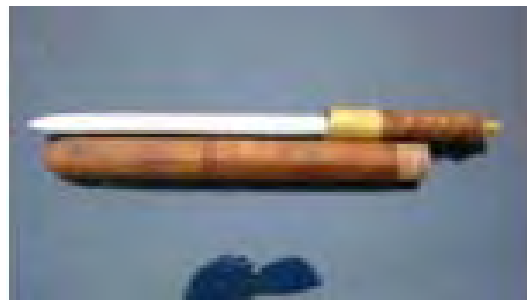
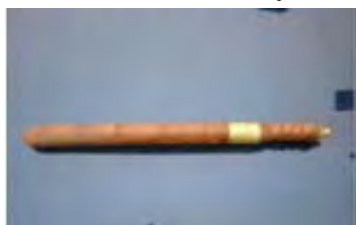
Plyer Knife:

The knife shown here is made to look like electrical pliers when in the sheath. It has a heavy weight blade with a wide split handle coated with red PVC. The knife is manufactured by CRKT and is available on the Internet at www.crkt.com as the "Crawford P.K." for \$39.99.



Thumper Knife:

A Nebraska State Trooper recently located this knife/sword disguised as a tire beater or thumper, under the driver's seat of a semi. Most truck drivers carry tire thumpers to check for flat tires. These photos show the weapon placed next to a collapsible baton for a size reference. The driver advises these "Sword/Thumpers" can be purchased at most truck stops across the country.



Concealment Opportunities

Vest with Gun Pocket:

www.focminc.com appears to be a website that supplies goods oriented toward the Hell's Angels. The vest displayed here is advertised on the site and is identical to vests seen regularly on members of the various biker gangs. Please note in this photo the wearer is pointing to the "gun pocket" where a full sized firearm can be easily accessed by the wearer without him obviously reaching for a weapon.



This oilskin "HOLSTER VEST" is available at www.concealedcarryoutfitters.com. It comes with 4 outside pockets and 4 inside pockets as well as a holster on both sides to facilitate a cross draw with either hand. Cost: \$169.



Hidden Pocket in Jeans:

The hidden pocket in these “**BX Brooklyn Xpress**” jeans is shielded by a removable manufacturer’s label. A small strip of Velcro holds the flap in place. This pocket is large enough to easily hold a handcuff key, razor blade or bag of drugs.



Basketball Shoe Hiding Spot:

The **ADIDAS TRACEY MCGRADY BASKETBALL SHOE** does not have shoe laces, instead there is a special device that can be tightened to give a snug fit. The snap on the back opens up a compartment that holds a special key to tighten and loosen the shoe. As shown, a handcuff key can be easily concealed inside the compartment. Removal of the special tightening key allows the space necessary to fit the cuff key.



35)

Nails in Pantlegs:

While searching gang members after a recent shooting in Raleigh, North Carolina, Investigators discovered that the gang members were using 1½” nails to secure their baggie pant legs to their shoes. They claimed to be using the nails in order to keep the pants from dragging on the ground; however the nails could also be used as weapons or as a tool to unlock handcuffs. Please keep this in mind while searching prisoners.



HEROIN IN BASEBALL HATS:

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Northeast Laboratory in New York City recently received 12 baseball cap type hats with various logos. Each hat had two long, flat, fabric tubes containing a beige powder, suspected heroin, sewn around the inside perimeter. The hats were seized in northern New Jersey by local Task Force Officers. Analysis of the total 40.8 grams of the powder confirmed it to be 91% heroin hydrochloride.



Similar baseball caps can be bought online that have zip pockets on the side and also hidden under the bill. These are meant for keeping keys or cash, but could easily hold contraband.



36)

Sock Pockets:

These socks are marketed toward travelers and advertised as having “cleverly concealed zipper pockets”. The pockets are intended to carry cash; however they are an ideal size to conceal contraband, handcuff keys or a small weapon.



Fake Beer Belly

New on the market is something called “The Beerbelly”, a polyurethane bladder & tube with a neoprene sling. The unit is designed to be concealed under clothing and looks like a beer belly. It is intended to provide a discreet way for someone to carry liquor without being caught; however it could also easily be converted to conceal contraband. This can be purchased at www.thebeerbelly.com.



37)

Stash Belt Buckles:

Officers should be aware that hidden compartment “stash” belt buckles are commonly utilized on the street and are readily available via numerous sources including the internet.



38)

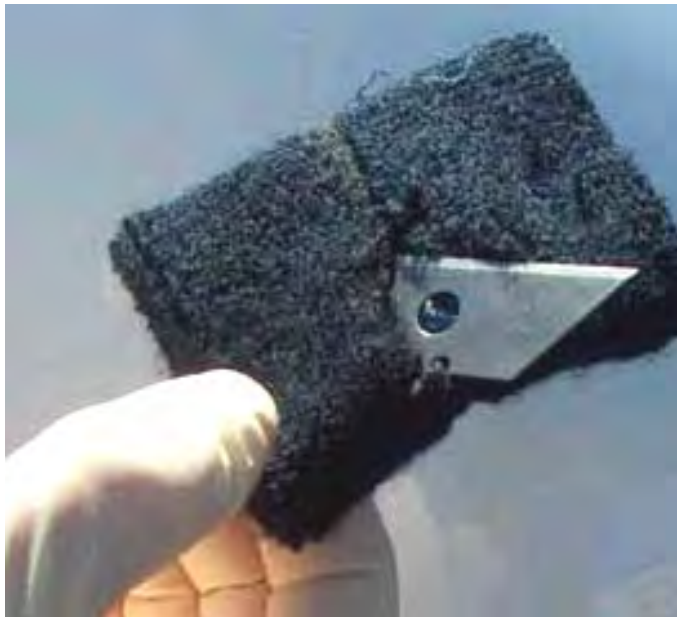
Jogger's OC Spray

Non-Lethal Defence, a US based Internet Company, sells self-defense products for personal use. One of their best sellers is the COUNTER STRIKE JOGGER & PEPPER SPRAY WEIGHT SET. These are fully functional for weight training while jogging; however hidden inside each of the hand-held weights is one canister holding a one-half ounce container of pepper spray. The canisters are removable and can be replaced. Each canister can fire 8-10 one-half second bursts of spray that has a range of 10 feet. The pepper spray is based on an oleoresin capsicum formula.



Wrist Sweatband:

In February of 2005 The Milliken Police Department in Colorado had contact with a runaway juvenile who had mental problems. During the incident the girl would not let officers see her wrist sweatband and, because of her odd behavior, the officers confiscated it. Sewn into the wristband was a utility knife razor blade that could be very deadly.



39)

Drugs on the Brain:

On July 18, 2005 a 19 year old man (who was a US citizen) attempted to enter JFK Airport in New York City on Avianca Airlines out of Columbia. The man was acting extremely nervous and Customs Officers conducted a pat down search. A check of his head found he was wearing a wig and beneath it had 40 blocks of Heroin GLUED to his head. The total amount of Heroin was 841.8 grams or 1.86 lbs. The last photo shows what his head looked like after Custom's Officers peeled the blocks of Heroin off his scalp.



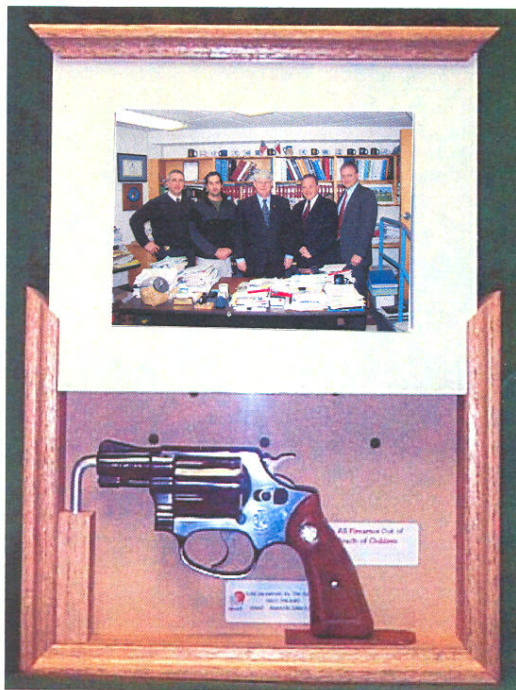
40)

Frame Stash:

Shown below are picture frames that could be used for gun and drug concealment – both frames are available at www.thesundeckonline.com.

Simply lift the top of the “Gun Concealment Frame” in an upward direction to reveal your handgun or valuables which will be easily accessible but hidden in plain sight.

Inside the “Stash Your Stuff” Frame is a place to secure 4 containers (included) and a slot to hang a pipe. The goodies are easily accessible by lifting the top of the frame in an upward direction.

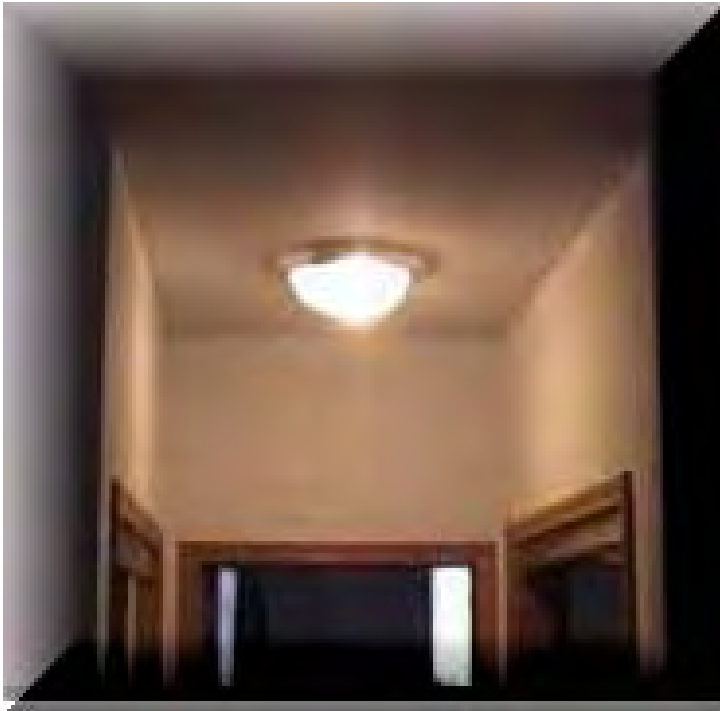


41)

Drugs in the Ceiling:

On December 15th, 2005, members of the Regional Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) Task Force in Illinois debriefed a subject who admitted to having a quantity of narcotics and monies at his residence. At the subject's residence officers recovered 7000 grams of cocaine, 200 grams of heroin and \$185,474.00 in U.S. currency.

During the execution of the warrant, narcotic detecting canine units were unable to detect the contraband due to the hidden compartment's ceiling location. The contraband was found hidden behind a motorized light fixture, mounted flush against the ceiling. The hidden compartment could be controlled remotely allowing the fixture to descend.



42)

Hollow Walking Cane:

An Officer in Stayton, Oregon discovered this hollow walking cane during a recent vehicle search. The handle of the cane unscrews from the shaft revealing a hollow space large enough to hold tubes or even a small weapon. When the cane is unscrewed, a spring in the bottom pops the top tube out. The cane contained several empty plastic tubes that appeared to have been used for transporting drugs.



CD Case Scales:

Police in Charlotte, North Carolina recovered a firearm and cocaine during the search of an apartment. Also recovered was the CD case shown here, complete with a cover art insert. Inside the CD case was a working digital scale. This and other concealed scales can be purchased at www.americanweigh.com. The CD scale costs \$59.99.



43)

Methamphetamine laced paper:

The Central Iowa Drug Task Force recently intercepted a letter laced with methamphetamine. Meth was applied to the letter in some form of a dissolved solution. The liquid evaporated leaving only the paper and the drug. Lab results have not been completed and It is unclear how much meth was on the paper or the potency. Methamphetamine is commonly snorted or injected; however in this case it would be eaten. The letter had no distinguishing characteristics or noticeable odor, but a narcotics dog hit on the package.

Other cases of meth laced paper have been reported in Washington State. In that incident a woman was arrested after sending meth laced greeting cards to federal inmates. The papers would sell for \$150. to \$200. per sheet according to documents from the US Attorney's Office.



Sheet Cocaine:

The Jerusalem Police in Israel uncovered a sophisticated system of smuggling drugs that is serving to bring cocaine into their country. Using a chemical process and other materials, the smuggling ring managed to turn the cocaine into elastic sheets that were then applied to the sides of suitcases used by the drug couriers. According to the Jerusalem Police, after successfully entering the country they used a chemical process to convert the sheets of Cocaine back to it's recognizable form. This mode of smuggling the drugs was broken by a sting operation. When in sheet form the Cocaine was not detectable by the usual processing.



44)

Cocaine Soaked Wicker:

Customs at the Zurich, Switzerland Airport seized wicker baskets made from cocaine soaked paper in a private EMS Shipment from Las Ceres, Brazil. Cocaine soaked paper had been used to manufacture the wickerwork, which was later painted. Drug testing with Minilab and Drugwipe reacted positively. The quantity of cocaine is not yet known; however this is an MO showing up more and more in Europe.

FYI: The wicker was emitting a strong perfume smell and additional cocaine-soaked paper was found concealed in the side panels of the cardboard boxes containing the wicker.



45)

Heroin Disguised as Beans:

The DEA Northeast Laboratory in New York City recently received a bag of red beans, some genuine and some false, with the false beans containing a brown powder, suspected to be heroin. The bag originated in Ecuador and was submitted by the Homeland Security (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) JFK Airport Office, after being seized from the unclaimed shipments warehouse at JFK Airport.

Analysis of the powder from the fake beans (total net mass 480.5 grams) confirmed it was 68 percent heroin hydrochloride. The Northeast Laboratory has previously encountered similar concealment techniques on several occasions.



Cocaine Concealed In Tequila From Mexico:

Agencies studying the distribution of Cocaine advise that a Mexican based organization is regularly sending cocaine couriers from Mexico City into Europe. The normal concealment method used has been either in the lining of clothing or hidden in suitcase compartments.

Further intelligence indicates that other favored concealments are in bottles of wine or tequila.

This intelligence is supported by the seizure of five kilos of cocaine at London's Waterloo International Rail Terminal on January 23rd, 2005.

The courier, a 20 year-old Mexican male, had flown from Mexico City to Frankfurt and then onto Brussels where he had purchased his train ticket.

When intercepted he was carrying a black trolley bag containing two bottles of tequila and two tins of salsa syrup amongst other items. Four kilos of cocaine were in suspension in the tequila with a further kilo in the tins of salsa syrup.



46)

More Crystal Meth Concealment:

The following info is supplied by US Customs in Washington DC: Crystal Meth has been entering the country in liquid form, concealed in liquor bottles. The bottles shown below came into the US around Laredo, TX and, so far, have shown up throughout Texas and Florida as well as Tennessee and Kentucky.

When each bottle is boiled down it will produce 1 lb. of crystal meth. The bottles are usually hidden in suitcases with miscellaneous clothing. It is slightly thicker than normal alcohol and, when shaken, produces microscopic bubbles that float to the top. In some of the bottles the seals were cut and glued, but some did not appear to be broken at all. The substance tests strongly by NIK or similar field tests.



Drug Candy:

The substance shown here was discovered recently during a traffic stop in Colorado after the driver had been arrested for OUI – DRUGS.

During a search incident to the arrest the officers found a jeweler's bag with this red candy-like substance in it. The candy resembled "Jolly Ranchers" except that it had a white powder mixed into it.

Under questioning the driver admitted the candy had THC mixed in. The effects of eating it would be similar to "smoking a bowl" of Marijuana.

According to the arrestee the candy is sold by the gram and is available in different colors and flavors.



47)

Personal Products Laced with Cocaine:

Canada Customs reports increasing problems recently with “liquid Cocaine” making it’s way into the country, usually in bags of personal toiletries. In most cases (where the suspects were caught) the people trying to smuggle the drugs started their journey in Mexico. The bottles of Cocaine were only noticed because the perpetrators were carrying an excess amount of bottles or had unrealistic stories as to why they were entering Canada. It is unknown how much Liquid Cocaine is on the street in the Northern US & Canada at this time; however the amounts appear to be increasing dramatically.



Cocaine Candles:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Vice and Narcotics Detectives (North Carolina) recently impounded kilogram quantities of Cocaine disguised as candles. The wax more than doubled the weight of the kilos and scent as well as appearances indicated the candles were real. They are believed to have been constructed at a North Carolina restaurant and grooves on the sides were consistent with being formed in cooking pans.



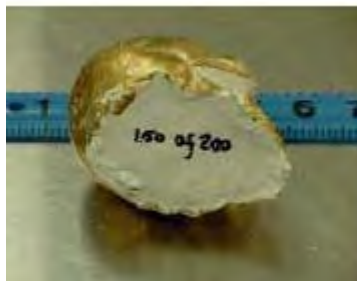
48)

Drugs Hidden in figurines:

On December 7, 2005 an officer in Longmont, Colorado made a traffic stop which resulted in an arrest. In the vehicle the officer located a cardboard box containing a baggy of psilocybin mushrooms and 4 small ceramic figurines. Also in the box was a latex mold to make skull figurines.

The figures (2 skulls & 2 eagle heads) appeared to be made of either plaster or an epoxy type substance. They had writing on the bottom that said ("1/4", "an 8-Ball", "T" and "1.50 of 200". The officer noticed the figurines had a chemical odor that he described as similar to "ether". They had a depression or void on the bottom and, when broken open, were found to contain methamphetamine.

The molds were filled with either the resin or plaster and the meth was placed in the mold while the material was wet, allowing it to sink into the resin and be hidden inside the figurine when dry.



49)

Black Cocaine:

The Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center reports the appearance of “COCA NEGRA” or BLACK COCAINE coming into the U.S. from Jamaica. It has also been seen in the New England area and is evidence that some drug traffickers are sharing the same methods to move Heroin into the U.S. This product is made by mixing pure cocaine with Ferrorhodanide products, this turns the cocaine into a dark brittle substance that can be dark red, blue-violet or black in color. In that form it can evade detection in field drug tests and with drug sniffing canines since the presence of Iron Thiocyanate masks a positive reading. Traffickers have been shipping the powder in IBM brand toner cartridges. It is not sold on the street in the dark or black form but has to be mixed with a solvent such as acetone or ether to extract the Ferrorhodanide. Securtec Drug Wipes have been one of the few tests that have worked in detecting the mixture.



Bath Gel “Ice”:

The Chicago Police Department has recently received info which indicate a new popular method being used to conceal and transport Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice). Small portions of Crystal Meth are being loaded inside small bath gel capsules or beads and then resealed. Chicago advises couriers carrying drugs in this manner are rarely discovered during traffic stops.



50)

Drug Concealment in Aluminum Trays:

On December 9, 2004 the Ramsey and Anoka County Sheriff's Departments in Minnesota executed search warrants that yielded over 200 lbs. of BC Bud Marijuana valued at approximately \$640,000. The Marijuana was being shipped in five pound increments inside boxes containing stacks of aluminum trays. The top six trays were intact; however the bottoms of lower trays had been cut out to create a hiding place for the drugs. The boxes were then sealed with professional packing tape and shipped.



Dog Repellant:

The Chicago Police Department covered an incident in October of 2004 where 5000 lbs. of marijuana was confiscated. It had been sprinkled with a powder that had a chlorine odor in an effort to block police canine checks of the truck. The seizure turned into a serious HazMat incident after several officers became ill from the fumes and required medical attention.



Safe Cans:

The following items were found at a gift shop in Brunswick Maine with prices ranging from \$5. to \$50. All are hollow with plastic liners to prevent any rattles from goodies hidden inside. The larger cans could conceal knives and firearms while the smaller ones can still hide a significant amount of drugs and other contraband.



More Creative Hiding Spots:

In February of 2006 a police officer in Auburn, Maine arrested a teenager for AGGRAVATED TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS after finding two 2 ounce bags of cocaine concealed in snack food. The first bag of cocaine was hidden in the bottom of a “Pringles” can with the Pringles chips piled on top of it. The second bag was found during a vehicle search in a box of “Crunch N Munch” that was completely sealed shut. The inner foil bag containing the snacks had been resealed with glue with the bag of cocaine inside. Due to the smell of the snackfood, along with the complete resealing of the bag - the police K-9 was not able to detect drugs in the box. The total drug weight found in the snack boxes was 115.2 grams.



Hidden Cocaine:

In August 2005 a Louisiana State Trooper stopped a Ford pickup for a traffic infraction. The driver claimed to be en route to Florida from Texas to work on an oil rig with his brother. In the cab of the vehicle were 3 cell phones, a GPS unit on the dash, hanging clothes and a small duffle bag. In the bed of the pickup was a bail of hay and eight 50 lb. bags of horse feed. The driver had minimal knowledge of horses and did not have a good reason for transporting the feed. A consent search was obtained and revealed 82 lbs of cocaine individually wrapped in 34 kilo sized bags. The cocaine was hidden inside two 50 lb. bags of dog food that was under the horse feed.



Khat

“**KHAT**” is a naturally occurring stimulant derived from a shrub that is primarily cultivated in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. In the US Khat use is most prevalent among immigrants from Somalia, Ethiopia & Yemen. These individuals use the drug in casual settings or as part of religious ceremonies. Abuse levels are highest in cities with sizable populations of such immigrants.

Khat is usually packaged in plastic bags or wrapped in banana leaves to retain its moistness and freshness; however it can also be sold as dried or crushed leaves or in powdered form. Because Khat in leaf form starts to lose its potency after 48 hrs. it is generally shipped to the US on Thursday's or Friday's for weekend use. The US Customs Service has seized over 3000 pounds in the last year at JFK Airport in NYC.

FYI: Any police officer who confiscates items believed to be Khat should be aware of the rapid decomposition rate which will quickly change the drug from a Schedule 1 controlled substance to a Schedule IV controlled substance. Officers should expedite delivery of any seized Khat to the nearest lab in an effort to ensure the tests will show it as a Schedule 1 controlled substance. If delivery to a lab can not be arranged in a timely manner, be sure to keep the plant cool or frozen until transport can be arranged. Shown here is the Khat Bush & Khat Bundles.



Fake FedEx:

On February 25, 2005 a Missouri Trooper stopped a rented 2005 Chrysler Pacifica out of Texas for a traffic violation. As he conducted the stop he noted a FedEx van, also with a Texas registration, appeared to be circling and waiting for the Trooper to finish. After completing the stop the trooper followed the Chrysler and noticed it met up with the FedEx van. A secondary traffic stop was then conducted on the van and a closer examination found the FedEx decals and logos were all counterfeit.

Inside the van was found **1300 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA** all packed in UHaul boxes. The marijuana and both vehicles were seized and, following an investigation, several arrests were made in Missouri and in Chicago.



Factory Installed - Mercedes Hidden Compartments:

The Mercedes G55 & G500 SUV's both have factory installed hidden compartments in the second row seat under the floor. The NYPD HIDTA Gang Unit advises they have had several problems where these compartments were used to conceal weapons & narcotics.



55)

Factory Installed - Honda Odyssey Minivans:

There is a hidden compartment in the second row passenger area – under the floor in the 2005 & 2006 Honda Odyssey minivans. This is a factory standard compartment “Lazy Susan” which could also be utilized to conceal narcotics and/or weapons.



Dash Stash:

In September of 2005 New York PD recovered 2 handguns from a hidden compartment or ‘trap’ located in the center dashboard just above the center console vents of a 2004 Honda Accord. This is a factory compartment that is commonly utilized for electronics and is usually held in place by tabs that snap into



56)

Factory Installed - Hidden Compartment in 2006 Honda Ridgeline:

The 2006 Honda Ridgeline Truck has a unique feature called the “In-Bed Trunk”. This factory compartment comes as standard equipment. A button in the glove compartment is pushed to unlock the trunk which features an 8.5 cubic feet of secure lockable storage. The compact spare tire is securely housed in the forward part of the trunk and is easily accessed via a sliding tray. The compartment would not be noticeable to anyone who is not familiar with this new feature.



57)

Armrest Hiding Spot:

On December 7, 2005, a NYC Anti-Crime Unit recovered one loaded Browning 9mm handgun, three ounces of crack cocaine, three ounces of cocaine, and \$3,250 in US currency from a trap in a 1994 Toyota Camry 2 door sedan. The trap was located in the rear passenger side armrest and was operated via a hydraulic piston.



Concealment in Fuel Tank:

On November 11, 2005, at the United States Border Patrol Checkpoint in Las Cruces, New Mexico United States Border Patrol agents seized a 1994 Mazda pick up. Agents discovered three metal containers that were welded and placed inside the fuel tank. A total of 105 pounds of marijuana was concealed in the containers. For more info contact the New Mexico Investigative Support Center's Strategic Section at 505-647-6900 x6953 or 6955.



Three metal containers welded and placed inside the fuel tank



LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Drugs Hidden in Bed of Pickup Truck:

On December 13, 2005, at the United States Border Patrol Checkpoint in Las Cruces, New Mexico United States Border Patrol agents seized a 1998 Dodge Ram. Agents discovered a false compartment in the tool box located in the bed of the truck. One arrest was made and 464.5 pounds of marijuana was seized.



464.5 lbs of marijuana discovered in false compartment of tool box



Drugs in Rocker Panels:

On November 17, 2005 at the US Border Patrol Checkpoint in Lordsburg, New Mexico, US Border Patrol agents seized a 1998 Dodge Intrepid. Agents discovered 66.68 pounds of marijuana concealed in PVC pipe located in the rocker panels of the vehicle.



66.68 lbs of marijuana concealed in PVC pipe within rocker panels of vehicle



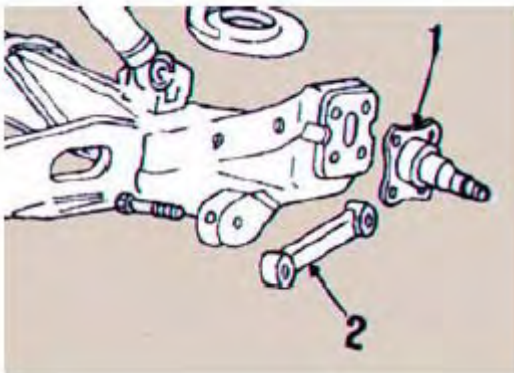
Front Speaker Trap:



In October of 2005 members of the New York City Police Department Document Fraud Squad recovered cocaine along with a thousand dollars from a trap in a 1991 Toyota Camry station wagon. The trap was located to the right of the glove box behind the speaker and was operated via hydraulic pistons.

Rear Axle Hiding Spot:

The FBI reports a large number of drug traffickers have been using 1999 Ford Windstar vans as load vehicles. The 1999 Windstar's rear axle is designed so that a space exists which can be accessed by removing the rear hub assembly. Drug traffickers are able to conceal cash and narcotics in the manufactured space. Drugs are stuffed into the axle through an opening that exists behind the wheel hub

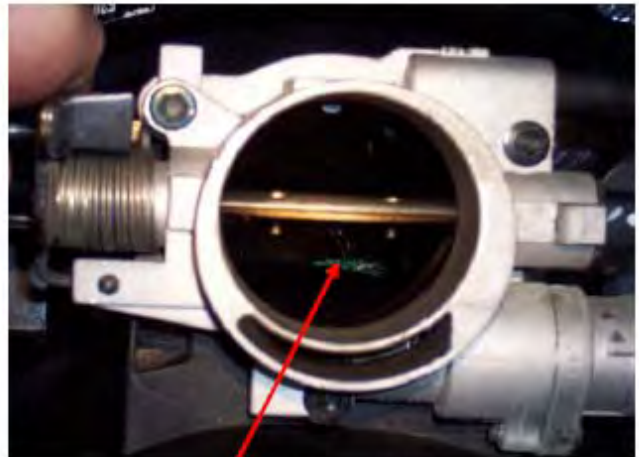


Manifold Stash:

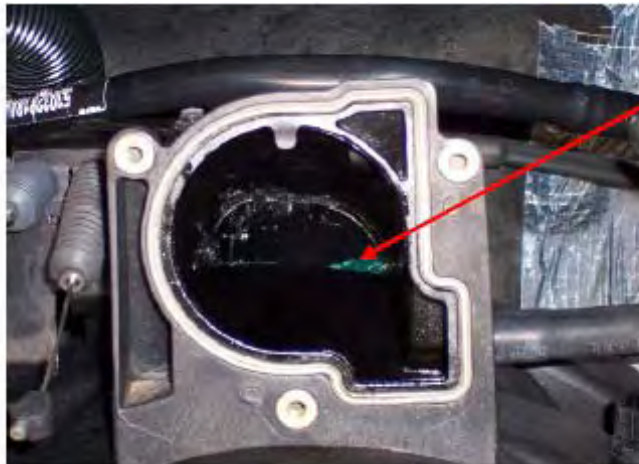
On January 21, 2005 Sheriff's Deputies in Douglas County, Georgia stopped two subjects from Texas reference a traffic violation. They were driving a 2003 Dodge pickup. Subsequent to the traffic stop a narcotics detector canine was brought to the truck and alerted on the engine. Inside the manifold intake the Deputies found 15.4 pounds of Cocaine.



Dodge manifold



Packages visible



Cocaine in manifold

61)

Battery Hot Spot:

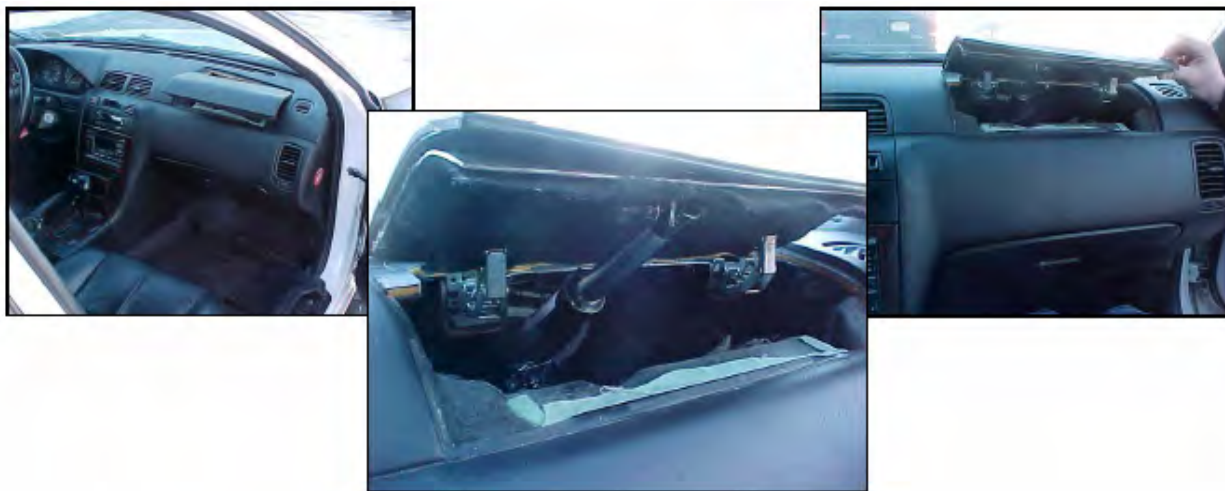
The Polk County, Florida Sheriff's Office HIDTA Task Force executed a search warrant looking for Methamphetamines. During the course of the search deputies discovered a car battery that had been altered to conceal 5 pounds of Methamphetamine. The top of the battery had been cut off and the cells inside removed. Detectives became aware of the hiding place when they observed the top of the battery askew.



Airbag Hiding Spot:

On January 27, 2005 members of the Gang Division on Staten Island in New York recovered a loaded .357 Ruger handgun along with 6 ounces of Cocaine during the search of a 1999 Nissan Maxima. The contraband was found in a hollowed out area that had previously held the passenger side air bag. In this incident the airbag compartment had been altered so it could be operated via a hydraulic piston.

This appears to be a common means of concealment lately. Numerous reports have been received from all over the country of passenger side airbags being removed and the compartments converted to hiding spots for contraband. If you're involved in a traffic stop where you believe drugs or weapons may be involved please keep this in mind.



Booby – trapped Compartment:

In 2000, members of the DEA and the Schenectady and Rotterdam Police Departments (New York) conducted a joint operation in which two ounces of crack cocaine were seized from a 1997 Ford Taurus. An initial search of the vehicle was negative and a K-9 was subsequently called in and alerted to the passenger side of the vehicle. A search of the area in question found wiring, and the indications of a hidden compartment. An attempt was made to short-circuit the wires to activate the compartment, resulting in the explosion of a booby trap which tore off the interior panel of the front passenger side door.

An Explosives Unit from the New York State Police was contacted and responded to the scene. This unit was able to activate the hidden compartment which was located inside the passenger airbag area. Further examination indicated the passenger airbag had been removed and the compartment modified. In addition, the canister that is usually associated with these airbags was also modified and rewired to the inside of the passenger side door. It was later learned US Customs has obtained information indicating a drug smuggling organization is removing airbags and replacing them with pouches filled with nails, bolts and other small metal objects. Bundles of drugs are reportedly placed into a hidden compartment located in another area of the dashboard. These bundles are then connected to the triggering device of the airbag mechanism via a trip wire. Upon removal of the drug bundle (from the concealed compartment) the airbag mechanism device is activated resulting in an explosive release of the nails and bolts. Officers should exercise extreme caution when examining passenger airbags to determine if a concealed compartment is present. In addition, officers should take precautions so as not to position themselves directly in front of the airbag compartment.



PHOTO D



PHOTO B



PHOTO F

63)

Drugs in the engine compartment:

In January 2005 a Georgia Sheriff's Deputy stopped a 2004 Ford F-150 Pickup truck for a traffic violation. A K-9 search found 21 lbs of Methamphetamine wrapped in black electrical tape hidden between the radiator and the air conditioner condenser in the engine compartment.



Tire Hiding Spot:

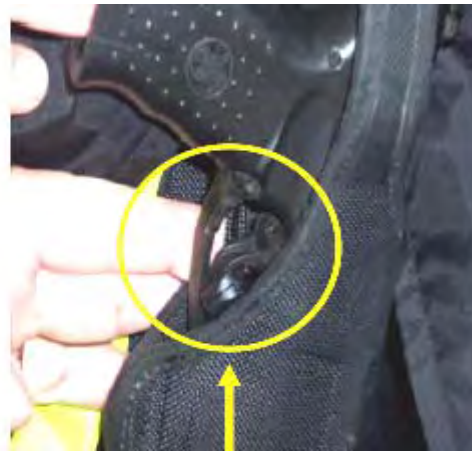
On January 6, 2006 a Utah State Trooper stopped a 1997 Ford Explorer with Arizona license plates. The trooper approached the vehicle and found all 4 windows down and a strong odor of air freshener. He could also see several air fresheners hanging throughout the vehicle. The driver appeared nervous and his hands were visibly he shaking. A consent search was obtained; however few items were found in the SUV. Looking at the undercarriage of the vehicle the trooper noticed the spare tire appeared to have been recently mounted on it's rim. The spot where the tool goes in to lower the spare tire had been recently used and the tire itself had a bubble in the sidewall. An echo test was conducted and indicated there was something in the tire. Once the tire was taken off, it was found to be heavier than other spare tires and did not bounce. 7 packages of crystal methamphetamine were found wrapped in t-shirts inside the tire when it



**Personal
Safety
&
Miscellaneous
items of
Interest to
Police Officers**

Raincoat Dangers:

On February 23, 2005 a Rialto, California police officer was wearing his department issued, reversible rain jacket over his gunbelt. The 'Lacrosse Rainfair' jacket extends slightly below the waist area and has zippered spits that allow the officer easy access to his weapon without having to lift up the jacket. Attached to the metal zipper pulls are 2¼" cords that are connected at the end by a plastic snap cover. The Rialto officer had been on a call earlier in the day that required him to draw the weapon and re-holster it, possibly inadvertently allowing the cord to lodge between the weapon and the holster. The pulley cord worked it's way through the trigger guard as the officer moved around and became jammed. When the officer pulled at the zippered opening to free his raincoat, the weapon discharged. This is obviously an unusual situation; however this is not the first report of problems with zippered pockets that provide access to firearms. If you wear one of these jackets, either in the short or long version, please make sure the closing cords have either been removed or shortened so there is no chance they can reach the trigger of your weapon.



Raid Jacket Warning:

In February 2006 a Sheriff's Deputy in Louisiana (Ascension County Sheriff's Office) was shot following a training session. He was shooting in a raid jacket with a draw string closure around the bottom and using a paddle holster to carry his duty weapon. He completed the qualification, reloaded the weapon for duty carry and holstered it at the range. When he holstered the weapon apparently the draw string attachment became lodged in the trigger guard. The deputy then went home and removed the holster. When he did so the draw string pulled tight and caused the weapon to discharge in the holster. The deputy was shot in the outer thigh and buttocks; however he is expected to recover completely.



Dangers of Hybrid Engines:

The Maryland State Police Automotive Safety Enforcement Division advises there is the potential for serious injury or death from electrical shock to officers responding to traffic accidents and vehicle fires involving hybrid vehicles. Hybrid vehicles are powered through a combination of gasoline engine and high voltage batteries. the presence of high voltage components in these cars creates a potential hazard from electrical shock for officers responding to traffic accidents and vehicle fires. Since most of the hybrid vehicles are also offered in traditional gasoline engine, distinguishing a hybrid presents yet another challenge to first responders.

As vehicle manufacturers continue to introduce new technology, the system in different vehicles operate and function differently. Some factors that appear to be standard in all hybrid vehicles are:

The high voltage battery pack which stores electricity is located in the rear of the vehicle.

High voltage cables are orange in color

High voltage components are clearly identified and encased in orange plastic shields bearing warning decals.

It is suggested by manufacturers that first responders should shut down a hybrid vehicle by putting it in park, turning the key to off and removing it. (Suggestions as to how to physically disable the electrical system on a hybrid vehicle should be left in the hands of the fire department personnel who have received training.)

The following recommendations are from MEMA:

- 1) Always assume the vehicle is powered up.
- 2) To disable a high voltage system, put the vehicle in park, turn off and extract the key.
- 3) If urgent circumstances do not exist, wait for the fire department to disable the high voltage system.
- 4) Never touch, cut or open any orange high power cable or high voltage component. In the event of a fire the high voltage battery pack with rapidly burn itself out.
- 5) If the installation on the orange power cable is compromised due to a severe impact, the electrical current could present an electrocution hazard upon contact with the vehicle. (Note: these vehicles can produce between 300 and 500 volts of electricity.
- 6) On Toyota Prius hybrids the electrical systems are still powered for a full 5 minutes after the ignition is turned off. This means that even if the system is off – it does not mean the vehicle is safe.

The purpose of this message is to ensure law enforcement personnel are aware of the potential threat posed by hybrid vehicles. A Power Point presentation on the dangers of Hybrid systems has been developed by the Baltimore County Fire department and is available at (410) 290-0780.



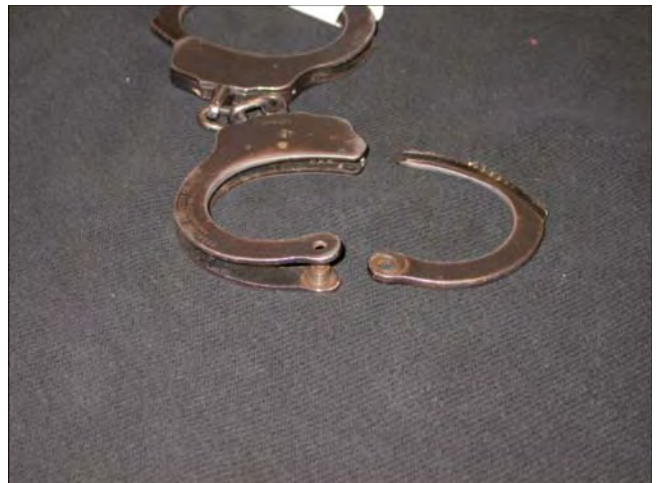
Problems with Handcuffs:

The Wells, Maine Police Department reported problems in January, 2006 with Peerless Handcuffs Model 801. The cuffs were purchased in the fall of 2005. They appear to have broken double-lock mechanisms that activate without a key, and have demonstrated that gravity alone can activate the double-lock, making the cuffs unusable while on an officer's belt. Deployment becomes impossible without unlocking the double lock mechanism, which may be a safety issue when deployed under less than calm circumstances.

Wells PD contacted Peerless and found there may have been a bad batch issued; however Peerless did not indicate any plan for recall or notification. WPD suggests any officers having cuffs with serial numbers in the 78800 to 78900 range may want to check the mechanism carefully.

Security Threat involving Handcuffs:

Recently the Kern County Sheriff's Department in Bakersfield, CA experienced a security threat. While inmates were being held in a local court holding facility they were able to escape from their handcuffs. To facilitate their escape they used the round lip that is located on or around the spout of the drinking fountain section of the jail sink. With this they managed to pry open the handcuffs and pop out the pin that holds the handcuffs together.



67)

Danger in Transporting Weapons:

The Ohio State Police has issued a warning reference an incident that occurred in one of their patrol cars on July 3, 2005. An officer was driving the cruiser when he heard a loud 'pop' in the back of the car and believed he had driven over something and punctured his tire. The tire proved to be intact; however he could smell something burning and found smoke coming from under his rear seat. Further inspection found a 30 caliber round had exploded causing a fire in the padding to the seat. It appeared the round rolled under the seat following a transport of weapons and became wedged against the metal fittings under the seat. These fittings become extremely hot after the vehicle runs for even a short time and it looks like the repeated heating and cooling had corroded the nickel casing of the round. Please keep this in mind if you transport weapons and ammo on the rear seat or the rear floorboards. This is obviously an unlikely scenario; however, as shown in the OSP incident, it can happen.

Booby Trapped Door:

A mechanic doing a morning fleet check on cruisers in South Portland, Maine found a single edge razor blade tucked into the top of the door weather stripping (cutting edge up) in one of the cruisers. It appears a subject placed the blade there so an officer placing his hand over the door to assist a prisoner in or out of the vehicle would slice his hand. Also a sweeping motion to clear snow from the door area would have resulted in a severe laceration.



Don't Try Spike Strips on These Tires:

Reportedly Michelin will be introducing a new line of **AIRLESS TIRES AND RIMS** in the next few months. This supplements their "Pax System" that allows a vehicle to be driven up to 125 miles at 55 mph and Zero Pressure radial tires that allows the vehicle to keep on driving up to 50 miles at 55 mph with a golf ball size hole in the tire. The appearance of the tires are very distinctive and easily recognized. Be advised SPIKE STRIPS WILL NOT WORK ON THESE TIRES.



Weighted Running Vests:

These are photos of weighted running vests that are becoming popular among serious joggers. It is likely they will be showing up more often and, unfortunately, it is difficult to differentiate between the running vest and a suicide bomber's vest.



JOGGING VEST ->



SUICIDE BOMBER'S VEST ->



70)

Flashlight Explosives:

On November 21, 2005, during the execution of a search warrant on a vehicle, the Elko Combined Narcotics Unit (Elko County, Nevada) located what appeared to be an ordinary three-cell magnum flashlight. Detectives tested the flashlight to see if it operated, which it did. Upon further examination, Detectives found the insides of the flashlight rearranged to serve as a possible incendiary device.

The set-up had been rearranged so two D-cell batteries could power the flashlight. An orange prescription pill bottle was shortened and, with the use of electrical tape, wires were coiled on one side and soldered to a bottle cap on the other. In this way, a current could run from one battery to the other, with the pill bottle in the middle. The bottle was empty when found.

When checking a device, it typically is not dismantled when proven to work. In this case, had the bottle been filled with an explosive substance and wired to the power button, it could have easily been turned into an incendiary device. The pill bottle located inside the flashlight could also be used to hide illegal substances from detection.



Baby Powder Bomb:

In December of 2005 a Deputy on the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office in Maine conducted a traffic stop and noticed the device shown here in the back seat. Investigation found the teenager who was operating the vehicle and several of his friends used the makeshift bomb, powered with a CO canister and filled with Baby powder in a 'game' similar to paintball. They use a remote control to blow up the fake bomb and the target gets covered with baby powder...instead of killed by shrapnel. Further questioning found that use of fake bombs by teenagers in similar games is becoming more common.



71)

"Toy" Claymore That Fires Airsoft BB's & Baby Powder With A Spring:

Supercell Development Corporation (www.supercelldev.com) has recently placed on their web page a Claymore Mine Simulator which fires airsoft BBs and baby powder. This simulator resembles the actual military version. The airsoft version is intended to be used for applications in paintball competitions and other "game type scenarios". This device is activated through a remote system or trip wire. Caution should be exercised in dealing with this item due to it resembling the actual device. It is not known if this mine could be converted to employ shrapnel to cause injury or death.



Spring Powered ASC7-CD
[Firing Airsoft BBs and Baby Powder](#)

Pricing is from \$100.00 to \$240.00 with remote **Range:** Over 100 feet **Transmits:** 433.9 MHz
Transmitter Power: Includes Battery **Receiver Power:** 9 Volt Battery (Battery not included) **ASC7 Power:** 9 Volt Battery (Battery not included)

Cuff Key Ring:

Shown here is a handcuff ring that appears to be a regular wedding band as long as the "key" portion is concealed in the palm. Another design is to attach the key to a coin with rivets. The key can be rotated and used if necessary. Both keys are commercially available at "Magic" stores and on the internet at websites offering equipment for magicians.



72)

Plastiken Key chain:

This “Knuckle Key Chain” fits like brass knuckles but is actually classified as a key chain. It is an oval shaped ornamental construction of high impact resistance nylon resin which is several times tougher than aluminum. These key chains are practically indestructible and weigh only 34 grams. Since it is made of nylon resin – it will easily pass through a metal detector. The key chain can be purchased at <http://www.selfdefenseproducts.com> for \$9.95.



Brass Knuckle Handbag:

The handbags shown here doubles as a self-defense weapon. Note the handle is shaped like brass knuckles. They are made of aluminum, making them light-weight but effective weapons that detach easily from the bag.

The “fighting purse” is available in white and black leather and costs \$75. at <http://www.jamespiatt.com/sundaebesthandbag.html>



Light Bulb Fumigator:

The light bulb shown below was confiscated at a college party in Alabama in February of 2005. The base of the light bulb had been removed and drugs dropped in to be heated, then the fumes ingested.



73)

Coffee Mate Flame Thrower:

When ignited with a match or lighter, COFFEE MATE Creamer (the standard, non-flavored version) ignites in a flash and is highly combustible. Suggestion: Don't try this in the break room.



Mini-Fire Extinguisher Lighter:

This mini fire extinguisher measures about 3" long and looks like a toy; however when the top trigger is pulled it throws a hearty 6" to 8" flame and definitely resembles a mini flame thrower. It was purchased at a convenience store in Brunswick, Maine in June of 2005 for \$4.50. It is fueled by butane and is refillable.



Wrist Watch Lighter:

The fully functioning wrist watch shown here is being sold at convenience stores around the country for about \$6.00. It is also a refillable butane lighter that can be activated by pressing the large black button on the side of the watch face. The flame comes out a nozzle located above the face. It is sold in a variety of colors and could easily be mistaken for a child's watch



74)

Stealth Camera:

This inconspicuous Zippo look-alike actually contains a digital camera capable of holding over 300 images. It also has a voice recording function and records up to 12 minutes of crystal clear audio. This can be purchased on the internet for \$79.99



Talking Mirrors:

This is yet another product officers should be aware of. "TALKING MIRROR's" are now being sold on the Internet. They are designed to work wirelessly with a cell phone and have the ability to digitally record images and conversations inside or outside a vehicle. The mirrors serve as a reminder to officers to be professional when dealing with the public and not say anything you wouldn't want to hear on the 6 O'clock news!

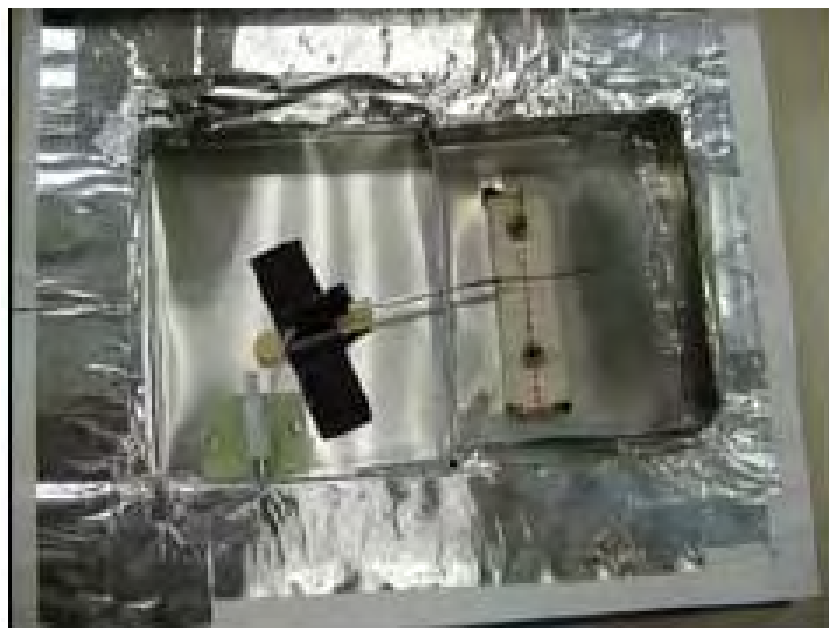
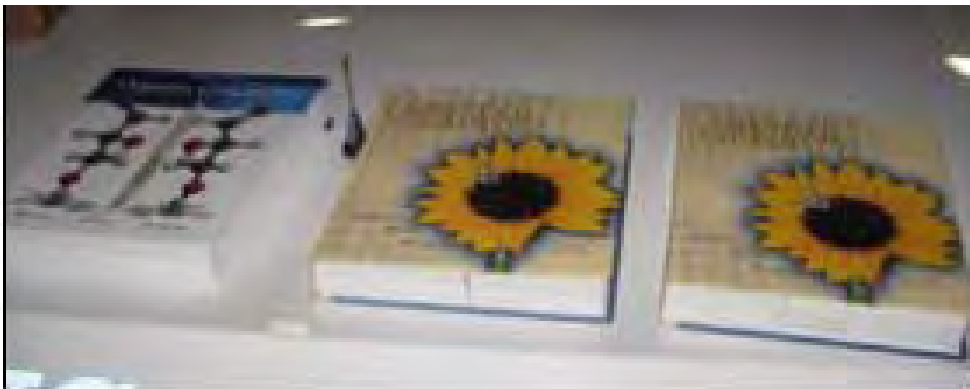


Chemistry Class Gone Wrong:

On July 10, 2005 a bus driver with a charter bus service in Irving, Texas found 3 chemistry textbooks in the storage bays on the bus. Further inspection showed the books had been altered by cutting out the pages and inserting a metal container with a switch and wiring.

Upon further checking it was determined the books belonged to several chemistry teachers who had recently attended a conference. Interviews with the teachers revealed one of their instructors at the conference was a professor from A&M University who had demonstrated his “burning book” at the conference. This was followed by about 90 teachers making their own books as part of the activities. The “burning book” is a novelty item used by magicians; however, when used inappropriately, it can also serve to trigger a fire or explosives.

Officers should be aware of these books and, as the teachers in the conference came from various areas of the country, be aware they could turn up as projects in high school classrooms.



76)

Covert Stun Gun

In addition to high-powered halogen illumination and a personal alarm, this flashlight packs a 600K-volt stun gun wallop. Although great for personal protection in the right hands, in the wrong hands it could be a danger to law enforcement. Keep this in mind if you approach a subject holding what appears to be a seemingly harmless flashlight.



The Stinger:

The Stinger and it's cousin the Punchlight, with an integrated LED, are some of the many personal defense Martial Arts weapons available on the Internet for less than \$10. Personal stingers are designed to be small and lightweight and inconspicuous enough to fit on a key chain. This self defense tool is used to enhance power and damage with a closed fist. The weapon is held between the middle and ring finger with the protruding tip projecting from the closed fist. It is a variation of a punch knife, but without a blade and the end is rounded so it doesn't draw attention. Because these items are brightly colored and non-threatening in appearance, they may elude detection by school resource officers as well as street patrols.



Eyeball Camera:

Police in hostage situations now have a new tool to toss into the situation. It is a baseball-sized camera that can be hurled into any situation. It has a rubber and polyurethane housing and will withstand almost any abuse. The camera rights itself after coming to a rest and wirelessly relays 360 degree video as well as audio back to base for three full hours.

The "Eyeball Camera" weighs less than a pound and can be thrown through windows, bounced off walls or simply rolled through a doorway. The sound and pictures will transmit up to 200 yards to the base unit.

It was originally created for the Israeli Military; however Remington Arms has now won FCC approval to sell them in the US (www.remingtontd.com). The Eyeballs sell for \$4800. for 2 eyeballs and the base unit. Replacement Eyeballs will run about \$1700.



Stealth Pipes:

Shown here are stealth pipes that are commonly utilized on the street to smoke Marijuana. They are readily available via numerous sources including the internet for \$11.99 . These fake mini-maglites have a false reflector cap to cover the bowl and the metal pocket clip turns to expose a threaded hole. This is where the large reflector piece that is used as the bowl is attached. There is a hole in the bottom of the tail cap that is used as a mouthpiece.



There are literally hundreds of different and interesting pot pipes available at www.superpiece.com. Here are a sample, some costing as little as \$5.



78)

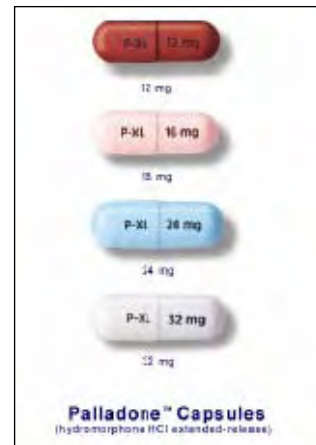
Assorted Drug Paraphernalia:

Most of us know what marijuana pipes look like, but here are some decorative varieties that might not be noticed. Also shown is a Herb Grinder, a Sifter, Digital Scales, a Stash Container and a vaporizer.



The New Stronger Oxycontin:

This is **PALLADONE**, a new drug on the market as of 2005 that is reported to be 4 times stronger than Oxycontin. It has a high chance of addiction and the law enforcement community can expect the same problems they have seen with Oxycontin and Oxycodone. This advisory was provided by the Michigan State Police Intel Briefing in January of 2005.



Fentanyl Patches:

Fentanyl abuse-related trends have been reported throughout the nation. It is classified as a synthetic opiate analgesic and is prescribed for treatment of chronic pain. **Fentanyl is about 80 times more powerful than morphine!!!!** According to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), FENTANYL related emergency room mentions increased from 576 in 2000 to 1506 in 2002. There have been reported deaths associated with Fentanyl use.

There are different analgesic analogues of fentanyl. Duragesic[®] for example, is a fentanyl transdermal patch used in chronic pain management. Since the patch disseminates the drug through body heat, abusers will apply heat to the patch to accelerate the drug, often with hair dryers. In one case the subject even used a clothes iron on his chest, causing irregular burn marks. Abusers commonly slit the patch open and put the gel under the tongue. They also may chew or swallow the entire patch or insert them as a suppository. In another case (documented in California) a subject placed 18 patches on his body and died of an overdose. Three addicts in southeast Ohio removed the gel and injected the fentanyl directly into their bodies. All three died, two with the needles still in their arms. Fentanyl has been diverted numerous ways, running the gamut of pharmacy theft, fraudulent prescriptions, illicit distributions by patients, physicians and pharmacists. Theft has also been identified at nursing homes and long term care facilities. According to the Los Angeles HIDTA, Duragesic[®] sells for between \$25. and \$100. per patch!



Vaporized Alcohol:

A new problem that has been popular in Europe is now showing up in the US. It is **AWOL (Alcohol With Out Liquid)**. AWOL consists of 2 components, an oxygen generator and a hand held vaporizer. Tubes from the generator attach to the vaporizer and 80-proof spirits are poured into the vaporizer. Oxygen mixes with the alcohol producing a mist which is inhaled through the mouth.

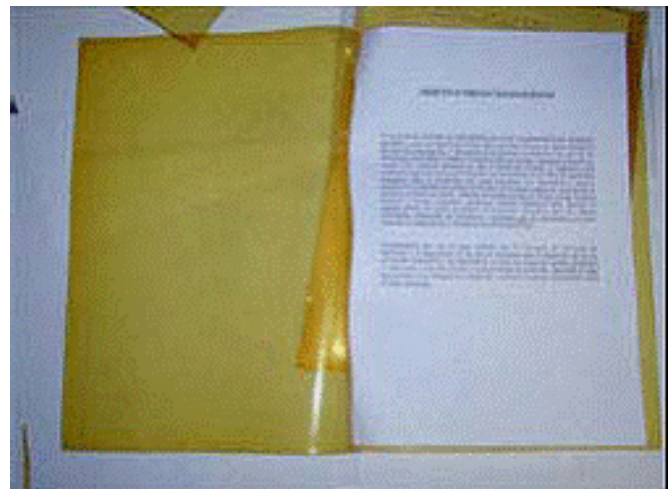
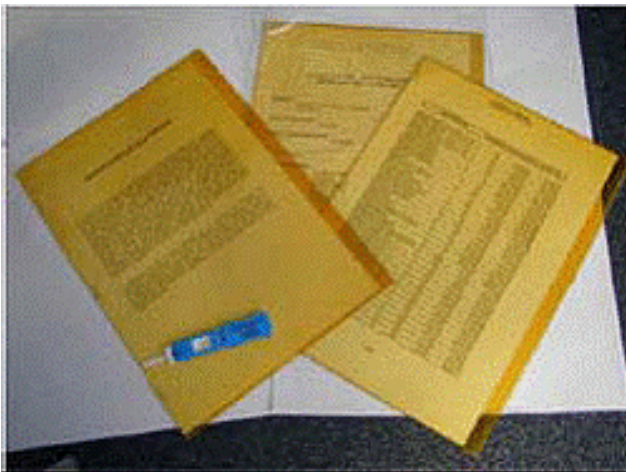
The alcohol enters the blood stream through the lungs rather than the stomach making AWOL a low calorie and low carbohydrate way to consume alcohol. Once the alcohol enters the bloodstream it affects the body the same way as drinking it. Inhaled alcohol WILL register in a breathalyzer test.

FYI: Check your state laws, many states have made the use, sale or furnishing of inhaled alcohol illegal.



Clear Cocaine Folders:

Interpol advises Swiss Customs has seized “plasticized cocaine” at the Zurich Airport. The cocaine was found inside 2 air mailed envelopes posted from Columbia and addressed to a private residence in Spain. The drug was produced in the form of yellow see-through document folders (covers) which gave a positive reading when Customs Officers applied a drug wipe test.



Drug Flavored Candy:

A TV station in Raleigh, North Carolina recently highlighted a new line of candy that glorifies pot and is becoming a hot seller all across the country. It's a multimillion dollar business promoting drugs and one that many parents and police departments don't know about. The candy tastes like Marijuana and, according to stores that carry it, is flying off the shelf. The web site www.chroniccandy.com advertises that "Every lick is like taking a hit". Shoppers can buy an ounce or a nickle bag online with no age limit on purchasing it. The candy is not only available as lollipops, but other companies offer hemp-flavored gum drops and gummy bears. The candy does not containe THC, the ingredient that gives pot users a high – consequently the candy is legal. An employee at Spencer Gifts was interviewed and told the TV show the "Pot Suckers" are among the chain's hottest selling items, with more than 90,000 sold in just a few months. Different kinds of this mock-Marijuana candy can be purchased at www.thehempjoint.com & www.maryjanecandyco.com.



Puppy Mules:

Columbian traffickers stitched heroin packets into the stomachs of 6 puppies recently in an apparent bid to smuggle the drugs into the US. Each of the puppies was found holding one or more plastic packets containing some 400 liquid grams of heroin. The puppies were found by police in Medillin, Columbia, a city south of Bogota.

The Labrador and Rottweiler puppies were found in an abandoned house. They had obvious scars on their stomachs; however X-rays failed to show the drugs. This was followed up with an ultrasound scan that enabled the police to find the drug packets. More packets, as well as the surgical instruments to implant the drugs were found nearby.

It is unknown how many puppies made it into the US before this mode of transporting drugs was discovered.



Cell Phone Stun Guns:

Cell phone stun guns are now widely available on the Internet. Even reputable establishments such as Cabela's Sporting Goods are now selling Cell Phone Stun Guns through their online stores. The ad states "Would be attackers won't be able to tell the difference between your cell phone and this powerful stun gun. The high-voltage shot disrupts the signal from the brain to muscles....and full recovery can take 5-10 minutes." Cabela's is selling it for \$69.99.

The Cell phone shown here is available at www.watkinselfdefense.com & <http://www.selfdefenseproducts.com> for \$75. This realistic looking stun gun phone shoots 180,000 volts and has a siren alarm up to 130 db. It is Powered by one 9 V battery.



Pepper Spray "Pager"



This small, compact, attachable unit is the size of a pager, but contains dual canisters that unload twice the fire power of any 1/2 ounce spray on the market.

Hardly noticeable, this device has "quick draw" action that can disable an attacker up to 12 feet away. The "Pepper Pager" emits 10 to 12 one second bursts of crippling spray. More than enough to render multiple people helpless. the Pager contains dual canisters of 10% pepper spray with a 2 Million SHU rating.

It is available on Ebay for \$12.00!

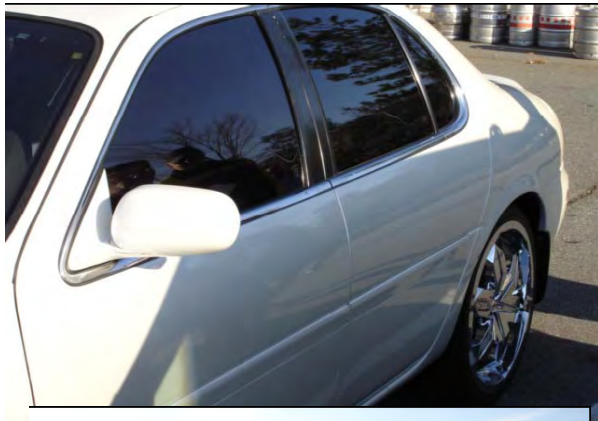
Unusual Encounter:

On December 19, 2005, North Carolina officers reported an encounter with a 1993 Infiniti J30 sedan. The stop was for an expired registration plate and expired state inspection sticker. There were a few unusual things about this vehicle. Please note the photos below. If you happen to notice the lack of door handles, congratulations, there were none on this vehicle. Entry into the vehicle was gained by waving a magnet over one of three contacts located in the shadows of the front and rear windshields.

Look closely at the rear of the vehicle. The black spot that appears to be the keyway for the trunk is actually a camera lens which affords a view on the fold down viewing screen of the VD/CD/Radio combination unit installed in the center of the dashboard, in easy view of the driver and passengers.

In addition to the center monitor, the vehicle was also equipped with a combination rear-view mirror and monitor screen as well as with monitors built into the headrests. Records indicate at least 12 documented encounters with this vehicle in North Carolina since 2003.

The driver is permanently suspended and there has not been insurance in effect on the vehicle since June, 2004. The last two documented encounters (August, 2005 and December, 2005) resulted in the driver/owner's arrest for possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver, among other charges. In the most recent incident, officers discovered more than 100 dosage units ("rocks") of crack cocaine concealed in the rear seat center fold up armrest.



Not a Good Day:

Please keep in mind that a simple traffic stop can result in disaster. The following are photos of a cruiser in Schertz, Texas. On March 3, 2005 the officer stopped a car for speeding and saw the driver pull out a 9mm handgun as he approached the driver's door. The officer took cover BEHIND his cruiser and traded fire with the suspect who used both the 9mm and an AK-47. When everything was over the cruiser had been hit 30 times; however the officer was unhurt. The suspect was shot 2 times by the officer, but survived.



(Rods were inserted in the holes to show the trajectory of the bullets.)