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Right to Carry (Update)

S. 1132/H.R. 3752 The “Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act Improvements Act of 2009” Signed into law on October 12, 2010

When the 108th Congress passed the original "Law Enforcement Officers` Safety Act of 2004"--authorizing active and retired police officers to carry firearms throughout the United States--it took a step forward in advancing public safety.

The premise of that law was simple: Allowing trained, active-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms could only enhance public safety. It would also allow current and former officers to defend themselves against revenge attacks by those they`d once brought to justice.

Since 2004, however, nagging issues in the original law have prevented police and the public from realizing its potential benefits. Many retirees, in particular, have complained that agencies won`t make the necessary annual training available.

The "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2009" (S. 1132/H.R. 3752), sponsored by Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) in the Senate and Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) in the House, fixes these problems. Among its provisions:

- S. 1132/H.R. 3752 reduces the period an officer must serve before gaining eligibility to carry firearms as a retiree. Under the original law, only officers with 15 years of service are "qualified." This arbitrary requirement discriminated against those who go into law enforcement as a second career--after retiring from the military, for example. The 'years of service' requirement has been reduced to 10 years.
- S. 1132/H.R. 3752 eliminates the requirement that retirees have "non-forfeitable" retirement benefits to qualify. Some small agencies have no such benefits--but a retiree`s need to defend himself shouldn`t depend on his pension plan.
- S. 1132/H.R. 3752 clarifies training requirements--ensuring that a retiree can meet the mandatory re-qualification standard either through the agency he or she formerly served, or through the state where he or she currently resides.
- S. 1132/H.R. 3752 creates more flexibility in training. Many retired police officers, who are otherwise well qualified, were unable to find a state agency willing to train them because of liability concerns. While those concerns were largely imaginary, S. 1132/H.R. 3752 fixed the problem and allows certification of the retiree`s training by any person authorized to test law enforcement officers` qualifications.

Ninja Hunting in Today's Drug Cultural Society

By Samuel E. Stone

If you can satisfy those basic curiosities, the majority of people would rather talk about themselves than hear any more about you. This is the fourth in a series of articles about illegal drugs and the impact they have on every one of us.

Drugs whether legal or illegal are studied and investigated as to the affects that they will have on an average individual. The key word here is "average" which in actuality is making a reference to the majority of people that were used in a controlled environment to conduct the study. This standard does not apply to everyone. This is the reason that there is always warning labels on legal drugs. These labels state that you may experience adverse reactions of one kind or another. This also applies to the use of illegal drugs, not everyone has the same reaction under the influence. Furthermore, the amount of drugs taken by individuals, along with the frequency used varies, as well as the age, physical and mental health of the user.

You are likely aware that the use of illegal drugs, especially on any sort of regular basis transforms the user's personality into a paranoid state. The reason for this is twofold. First, regular users develop skills in lying and stealing in order to finance their habit. The more an addict uses illegal drugs the higher his or her tolerance to the drug becomes which requires more of the substance in order to maintain a high or balance level. The more drugs needed the higher the cost. Stealing and lying become a normal means of survival for these individuals.

Now if they lie and steal, they become unable to trust anyone else because they view everyone as equal or below them in what they are capable of doing. They become paranoid simply because they feel they cannot trust anyone. Knowing their own untrustworthiness leads them to believe no one can be trusted.

The second reason is that illegal drugs such as cocaine and meth directly influence the users central nervous system including the reasoning and perceptive areas of the brain. This can hinder their ability to properly process information. This biological involvement develops into its own type of psychosis, in which the user's personality becomes functionally disorganized disrupting their natural thinking process and creating paranoid behavior.

This brings me to the "Ninja Hunters" that exist in today's society. Working Undercover I have come across all sorts of individuals. Some of whom behaved in such bazaar fashion that even though their actions are sad, and often times scary, they also can be somewhat comical. Here is one such story about this guy named "Homer" who lived in a two bedroom corner apartment on the third floor of a three story complex. He was in his mid to late twenties, 6'2", weighting all of 120 pounds. I'm sure you can get the picture. In his younger days he experimented with acid (LSD) and virtually fried his brain.

He moved up to speed (meth) where over a period of time he went from snorting it to main-lining the drug into his veins. He was a hard core user. His mind seemed constantly focused on drugs. Drugs became his god. Getting his next fix dominated his every thought and desire. He lived for drugs. He would die for his drugs.

Sadly, from his perspective anyone, any group, or anything for that matter that would in any way, shape, or form deprive him from his drugs, his god, was EVIL. He viewed all such things as the evil forces existing in his society. In his mind, their prying eyes were everywhere and they were constantly trying to take his drugs, his god away from him.

Just attempting to carry on a conversation with him was scary, entertaining, challenging and potentially lethal. I was introduced to Homer in regards to purchasing an eight-ball (1/8 of an ounce) of meth from him. Selling drugs had become his main source of income, since due to deranged mental state he was not capable of holding down a real job. I was taken up to his apartment to make the buy. The person who took me there had warned me prior to our arrival that Homer was "way out" there and that I did not want to say or do anything that might contribute to escalating his paranoid state of mind. He advised me that Homer had the tendency to turn from nice to deadly without provocation or warning. ►

We arrived at Homer's apartment, apt. #312. The door to the apartment was open, ajar, closed but not tight. We knocked and received no response but as we did the door opened slightly from the vibration. We knocked again and heard a muffled voice asking who was there. My escort, who knew Homer, yelled back that it was Jim and he had brought me with him as they had previously arranged. Jim and a couple of other acquaintances of Homer had previously vouched for me at a party we all attended. It was at that time Jim had received Homer's approval to bring me over to purchase some meth. Homer yelled for us to come in and close the door behind us. We opened the door and walked inside. I was immediately taken back by what I saw. The inside of the house looked like a war zone. The sheet rock and insulation had been removed from the walls and was lying in a rumble piled high in the center of the room. And the windows were all covered with tinfoil. I looked over at Jim with a shocked look on my face and he just smiled at me and shrugged his shoulders. We then heard Homer yell, "watch-out" just as a huge piece of insulation came falling to the ground from the trapped door to the attic. We looked up and could see Homer's legs dangling down from the trap door. "I'll be down in a minute. I just have to get one more piece." Homer said. Moments later another piece of insulation sailed down from the attic.

Homer climbed down a few minutes later. He had a large, 45 cal. automatic pistol tucked in the waist band of his pants. We were re-introduced and he stared at me with his beady eyes. He had a blank stare as if he was there but he was not if you know what I mean. He just looked weird and gave me a strange feeling. He appeared extremely nervous shifting his focus around the room and then back to me. "I been Ninja hunting," he said in a serious but rather proud tone. "You never know who is listening or where they're hiding," he remarked as if he was an expert on the subject. "You can't be too careful you know." "They have bugs planted everywhere, you know." I had been warned prior to our arrival to keep my mouth shut and not say anymore than necessary. Jim had told me to just listen, stating that if I happened to say the wrong thing it might set Homer off. And, that would not be good for either of us. Reminding me that Homer was a weird dude and potentially dangerous.

I listened intently as Homer spoke. One moment he would speak in a rather normal tone of voice and then without warning his voice turned rough and angry. His emotions seemed to race from calm to bouncing off the walls and then recycled again. I found the entire situation rather scary to think that we have such unstable individuals residing among us. After just a few minutes, apparently I met his approval because he pulled out an eight-ball of meth and handed it to me. I in turn handed him the cash agreed upon and we left the apartment. Jim, who set up the buy was also a user/dealer but appeared to be quite normal in comparison to Homer. As we went to get into the car to leave, Jim remarked that Homer was definitely "upside down in the duck pond, but still afloat." In essence meant that even though he was delusional and extremely paranoid, he was still able to function in the drug society and supply people with the drugs they wanted or needed to purchase.

During my tours of duty working undercover I found myself meeting a rather large number of so called "Ninja Hunters". They seem to come from all walks of life, in all shapes and sizes, both male and female. Some have little to no education while others hold master degrees. Their common denominator is their addiction to drugs. Their paranoia and delusional tendencies also vary from mild to extreme. Many of these individuals develop medical problems such as ulcers which are directly related to the anxiety fluctuation associated with their compulsive behavior.

Until next time when we'll take a look at the sad realities of the young children growing up in today's drug culture, the true victims of drugs in America.



*The
Retired & Disabled
Police of America
wishes you a
Happy Holiday Season
and a
Healthy and Prosperous
New Year*

Avoid Getting Carjacked – Lesson 2

Remember the warning “**Beware of Paper on the Back Window of Your Vehicle**” from Vol. 4 – 2009 of the American Police Bulletin? Now we have “**Beware of Unusual Vehicle Noises**”.

You walk to your car, unlock the door, get in and start your engine. As you begin to drive off you hear a loud tinny rattling sound coming from the back of your car. You come to a stop, put your car in park, open your door and get out...leaving the engine running and the door open. You walk to the back of your car and find a half dozen aluminum cans strung together and attached to your bumper. At the same moment someone jumps in your car and drives off. You've just been carjacked. And, Ladies. I bet you left your purse in your car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your safety, your home, and your whole identity are now compromised. **Stay alert. Stay safe.**

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End of Watch

Blumberg, Richard A - ST of CA - Date Unknown

Kent, Scott H - NY Transit PD 10/31/10

Mitchell, David T - Mt Pleasant (NY) PD 7/10

Oppedisano, Dennis J - Chicago (IL) PD 7/18/10

O'Donnell, William J - NY Port Authority 8/19/10

Rahn, Robert E - Aurora (IL) PD - 10/25/10

Rest in Peace

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