



Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence in Later Life

When: 8 a.m. to noon, Oct. 21
Where: Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
 3776 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio
For information: Call 800-282-0515.

Elder Financial Exploitation Symposium

When: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 28
Where: Nutter Center's Berry Room, Wright State University
For information: Call 800-282-0515 or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ElderAbuse.



Taking a spin in a simulator

Canton Public Safety Director Andrea Perry uses a driving simulator to get the feel of a high-speed pursuit during a meeting of the Ohio Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Vehicular Pursuits. Scott Whatley and Ryan Born of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy brought the mobile simulator to the Columbus Police Academy so panel members could try it. See story, Page 4.

FALL 2016 Volume 8 | Number 4

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

FALL 2016 Vol. 8 | No. 4



COVER STORY

Sexual assault kit testing saves \$40,866 per conviction, research shows

Study of Cuyahoga County bases figures on averted crimes

A project conducted by researchers at Case Western Reserve University shows that the Ohio Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative not only brings criminals to justice, but also saves communities money in the long run.

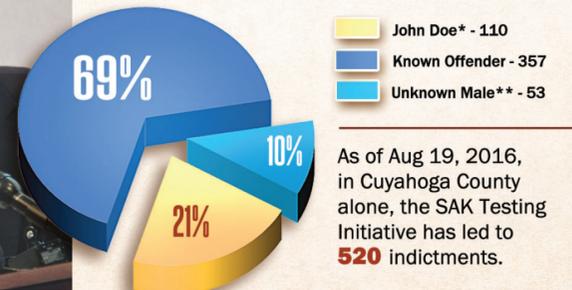
Rachel Lovell, a researcher with the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western, said the study of cases in Cuyahoga County showed that each conviction that results from the initiative amounts to a savings of \$40,866.

The report — by Lovell and co-authors Daniel Flannery, also from the Begun Center, and Mendel Singer, of the faculty at the School of Medicine at Case Western — *continued on page 7*

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine praising the work of the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force



SAK Defendants Indicted in Cuyahoga County



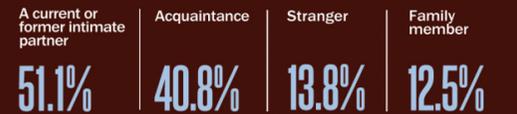
As of Aug 19, 2016, in Cuyahoga County alone, the SAK Testing Initiative has led to **520** indictments.

* DNA profile created
 ** No CODIS-eligible profile

(Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office)

Who are the perpetrators?

Female rape victims reported their assailants were:



(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



'BLACK HAWK DOWN' LEADER TO OFFER MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

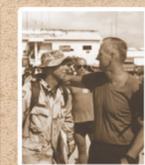
Col. Danny McKnight, who has been sharing lessons on life and leadership since his retirement from the Army in 2002, will be a featured speaker at the Ohio Attorney General's 2016 Law Enforcement Conference.

The event, with the theme "Protecting Ohio: Fighting the Drug Epidemic," will offer 30 workshops and a keynote address by Chuck Rosenberg, acting administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and former chief of staff and senior counselor to FBI Director James Comey.

McKnight, who will address the crowd on Oct. 5, is often asked to talk about one particular operation in 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, that tested McKnight and changed his life.



Images courtesy of Sony Pictures and dannydmcknight.com



Then-Lt. Col. McKnight was leading a battalion of Army Rangers into Mogadishu, Somalia, on a mission to capture two leaders who worked for a local warlord when two Black Hawk helicopters were shot down and a raid that should have been an in-and-out assignment turned into a 15-hour gunbattle in which 18 Americans died and 73 were injured, including McKnight.

The mission and McKnight's efforts as the commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment were chronicled in the book and movie *Black Hawk Down*.

In preparation for his speaking engagement, McKnight, who lives near Cocoa Beach, Fla., with his wife, Linda, recently answered a few questions about the mission in Mogadishu; the book and movie; and law enforcement.

continued on page 3

FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Each month, new progress is being made by my office's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative. As of Aug. 1, 294 law enforcement agencies had submitted 13,908 kits to be tested as part of the initiative. Forensic scientists with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) completed testing on a total of 11,472 kits, resulting in 4,129 hits in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

The success of the initiative is best measured when justice is served and violent offenders are taken off the streets. As of mid-August in Cuyahoga County, 520 defendants had been indicted through the SAK testing initiative, strong police work, and diligent prosecutors.

In 2015, researchers at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University, at the request of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty, began to use data from the SAK initiative to try to learn as much as possible about the crime of sexual assault, the offenders, and how to improve law enforcement's response. The research has reinforced the idea that when SAKs are tested and cases are investigated and prosecuted, there

is a potential to greatly reduce the number of future offenses.

While the SAK initiative is strong, my office is taking steps to make it even better through a joint project with Bowling Green State University (BGSU). With funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the university and the



Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science will conduct a project to develop the most efficient testing process. Our cutting-edge research with BGSU continues to reap benefits for the state. Such partnerships are essential and focus on helping Ohioans by using the best experts, technology, and research, all while saving taxpayers' dollars.

We must not lose sight of the survivors of sexual

assault and need to make sure they receive comprehensive support. In July, we announced that 28 Ohio rape crisis centers had each received a grant of \$45,804 from Ohio's Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, which is administered by my office. In addition, a \$142,500 statewide training grant was awarded to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

This issue of *Criminal Justice Update* shares details about the Case Western University study, the research partnership with BGSU, and the grants. It also looks at a rape case in Canton that was brought to a quick resolution in part because of the expedited services of the BCI lab in Richfield.

Through the efforts of law enforcement, prosecutors, and scientists, we are putting away criminals and making our communities safer places to live.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

Sexual assault kit testing

continued from page 1

considers that for every four rape convictions, at least one rape is prevented. The scientists based their calculations on a conservative 25 percent chance of recidivism. (As many as a third of the SAK cases involve indicted serial offenders.)



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine supports the research.

"Beyond the monetary savings for the community," he said, "the research further validates the need to get these offenders off the streets

to keep people safe." The work of the Sexual Assault Kit Task Force in Cuyahoga County was projected to save that community \$38.7 million from the testing and investigation of the 4,347 rape kits tested as of Jan. 1.

"Our calculations are based on the established estimates of the tangible cost to the victim, such as medical expenses, lost workdays, out-of-pocket expenses, and intangibles, things like pain and suffering, decreased quality of life, and psychological distress," Lovell said. "While our report is based on Cuyahoga County numbers, it could be representative of the state."

According to the report, "In sum, the cost to the 4,347 sexual assault victims is \$885.8 million; the total cost to test and investigate the SAKs is \$9.6 million; the cost of future sexual assaults averted due to the SAK Task Force is \$48.2 million, and the task force has brought a net savings to the community of \$38.7 million."

DeWine launched the statewide Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative in 2011 after learning that many law enforcement agencies throughout the state were in possession of rape kits — some decades old — that had never been sent to a DNA lab for testing. DeWine made an open call to law enforcement to send their kits to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) at no cost.

Senate Bill 316, which went into effect in March 2015, required Ohio law enforcement agencies to submit any remaining previously untested sexual assault kits associated with a past crime to a crime laboratory by March 23, 2016. Of the more than 13,000 kits submitted to BCI as part of the SAK Testing Initiative, 4,559 were submitted after the law went into effect.

DeWine continues to urge agencies to submit their kits for testing and encourages law enforcement and prosecutors across the state to pursue these cases aggressively.

Report's key findings

From the **4,347** kits tested as of Jan. 1, 2016, the scientists project a total of **1,290** indictments and **947** convictions.

The total cost of testing and investigating the kits is estimated to be

\$9.6 million

The total cost savings of future sexual assaults averted due to the SAK Task Force as of Jan. 1,

\$48.2 million

The SAK Task Force is projected to produce a net savings of **\$38.7 million** to the community. Each SAK tested produces a net savings to the community of **\$8,893**.

The total tangible and intangible cost to the victims associated with the tested kits as of Jan. 1 is **\$885.8 million**.



BCI processes kit swiftly to pinpoint suspect

The laboratory team at the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in Richfield acted quickly to help law enforcement identify a suspect in a recent abduction and rape in Canton.

A 25-year-old college student was abducted early Aug. 1 from the parking lot of Aultman Hospital in Canton, forced to drive to another location, and raped. She returned to the hospital for help.

When Russell Edelheit, a lab supervisor at BCI in Richfield, heard about the attack on the news, he called the Canton Police Department and offered the lab's help in processing the evidence.

The police submitted the evidence to BCI at 9 a.m. on Aug. 2 and a laboratory team worked through the night to expedite the Sexual Assault Kit. The lab completed the testing and reported a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) match to the police within 24 hours.

"The assistance from BCI was crucial to bringing this case to a quick resolution and taking a violent sex offender off the street," said Capt. Jack Angelo of the Canton Police Department.

The 30-year-old suspect, a registered sex offender, was arrested around noon on Aug. 3 in Atlanta.

Expedited services available

Fast-track services are available to BCI's Ohio law enforcement partners. The lab will prioritize DNA cases upon request when these elements are present:

- The suspect is unknown.
- The case involves a violent crime, such as rape, assault, or murder.
- Evidence is directly related to the crime, for example a sexual assault kit or clothing left by the suspect.
- The samples include body fluids.

To request expedited services, call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

Criminal Justice Update is typically published four times a year by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

To offer story ideas, contact Editor Julia Brinksneider at **614-995-0328** or **Julia.Brinksneider@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**. Sign up for the electronic edition at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates**.

Volume 8, Issue 4
FALL 2016

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30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/
CriminalJusticeUpdate

Grant to pay for study to streamline SAK process

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and the Ohio Attorney General's Office have been awarded a grant of almost \$440,000 to identify ways to streamline the analytical process of testing Sexual Assault Kits (SAKs).

The joint project, the "Use of Statistical Modeling to Optimize Sexual Assault Kit Analysis," will employ data mining of the results of the SAKs processed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) as part of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative in order to develop best-practice models for analysis.

BGSU President Mary Ellen Mazey and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the Laura and John Arnold Foundation grant in July.

"This is another exciting collaborative project," DeWine said. "Testing these old sexual assault kits is leading to convictions, and by probing the data, we can become even more efficient in the testing process."

"We're proud to be part of this important effort," Mazey said. "It is an excellent opportunity for our faculty and students to contribute their skills and



A forensic scientist at BCI looks into a box of offender DNA samples for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

expertise to improving a process that benefits both law enforcement and the larger society."

Jon Sprague, director of the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at BGSU, will lead the project.

While BCI currently analyzes everything in the kits, it is believed that the study will help shape the sequence in which pieces are tested.

Attorney General awards more than \$1.4 million to rape crisis centers

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced in July that his office has awarded 29 Ohio rape crisis centers with a total of more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.



The money is provided from Ohio's Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, which is administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

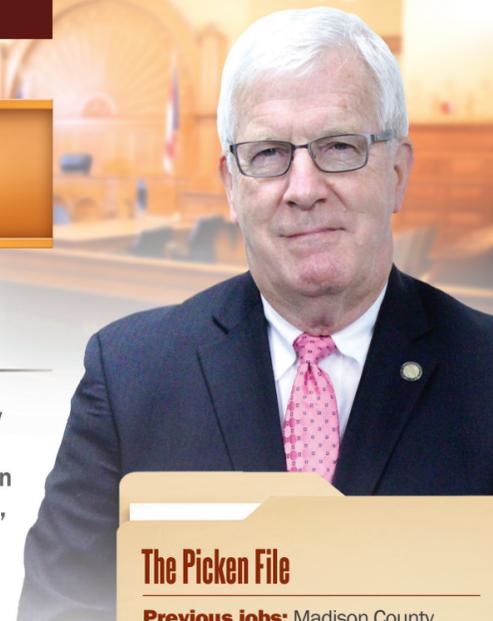
"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," said Attorney General DeWine. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

Twenty-eight agencies each received a grant of \$45,804.

In addition, a \$142,500 statewide training grant, which is available only to agencies that are federally-recognized statewide sexual assault coalitions, was awarded to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.



Q & A with:



R. David Picken, chief of the Criminal Justice Section

The section strives to uphold lawfully imposed death sentences, assists county prosecutors at the trial level in death penalty cases when requested, and defends the state in federal civil rights litigation brought by inmates.

Could you tell us more about your section?

The section is made up of the Capital Crimes Unit, the Habeas Unit, and the Corrections Unit. Our Capital Crimes Unit works to uphold lawful death sentences and the accompanying aggravated murder conviction in federal habeas proceedings. The Habeas Unit works to uphold criminal convictions and sentences that were lawfully imposed by the state courts in non-death penalty cases. The Corrections Unit represents the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services and their employees in civil suits.

Do you, yourself, ever go to court?

If it's a big enough case, I involve myself with it. I sit in on the negotiations, on the trial prep, and on the hearings so that I can be intimately involved in what happens. As part of my background, I spent 18 years as an elected prosecutor and another 17 as an elected judge, so I'm very familiar with the courtroom from both sides of the bench.

What brought you to the Attorney General's Office?

I retired from the municipal court judgeship in Madison County on Dec. 31, 2010. From January 2011 until September, I was sitting by assignment as a retired judge. In that role, the Ohio Supreme Court can send you to cover dockets when a judge is away, there is a conflict of interest, or if the judge needs help with a caseload. But there wasn't enough activity to suit me. I had an opportunity to join the Attorney General's staff full time, so I took it.

You are a Vietnam War veteran. How did your military service help in your career?

Leadership, period. It develops your organizational skills, it emphasizes time-management skills. It teaches you how to motivate people in situations that they are not happy about, such as being in combat. It was a huge dose of responsibility. I was what they called a platoon leader, or a second lieutenant, so I was responsible for the lives of 30 people. I was in an area called III Corps, which is around Saigon. I was there a little more than seven months when I was wounded and shipped back home.

Do you have any recent cases of which you are particularly proud?

The biggest and most recent case was the successful conclusion of the (2004) Department of Youth Services class-action lawsuits. ... There was one by the federal government and one by several of the youth inmates. Those cases had been going on for years, and we managed to get them settled last year.

READ MORE: Read an extended interview with R. David Picken at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CriminalJusticeUpdate.

The Picken File

Previous jobs: Madison County Municipal Court judge (1994-2010), Madison County prosecutor (1974-1992), second lieutenant in the U.S. Army (1968-1970)

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in history, Allegheny College; Juris Doctorate, Case Western Reserve University

Family: Wife, Sharon A. Picken; children, Brian, Laura, and Todd

Hobbies: Reading, snow skiing, horseback riding, and traveling

Contact: 614-995-3267; 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215; Robert.Picken@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Section repeats with best brief award



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with some members of the Appeals Section team, from left, Deputy Solicitor Hannah Wilson, State Solicitor Eric Murphy, Law Clerk Jason Manion, Deputy Solicitor Peter Reed, Deputy Solicitor Samuel Peterson, and Executive Assistant Kim Blankenship

The Appeals Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office was awarded a Best Brief Award from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) for its work on *Sheriff v. Gillie*.

The association bestows the awards to recognize high-quality written advocacy in the U.S. Supreme Court and to highlight legal briefs that can serve as models for others.

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously

agreed in *Sheriff v. Gillie* that private attorneys working to collect state debts on behalf of the Attorney General are not in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act when using official letterhead bearing the name and seal of the Attorney General's Office. The Appeals Section wrote the brief asking the court to preserve the arrangement.

The award was presented on June 24. The section won the same award in 2015.

Historical inductions sought for memorial wall

Organizers of the Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony are seeking the names of those who died in the line of duty before 2015 but have yet to be recognized.

Each May, law enforcement officers from throughout the state gather for the ceremony on the lawn of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London.



The event honors Ohio officers killed in the line of duty since the early 1800s. Honorees' names are added to the Ohio Fallen Officers' Memorial.

Among those honored each year are historical inductions. Often, an official representative from a department will submit information to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Washington and forward the same information to OPOTA for the Ohio memorial.

For inclusion in the May 4 ceremony, send an email to Kelly.Cain@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov or call 740-845-2684 by Jan. 6.

IN THE COURTS



United States v. Crumpton, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 9993 (6th Cir. June 2, 2016)



In this case, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals addressed whether an officer is required to tell a suspect, as part of the Miranda rights, that he or she has a right to stop answering questions at any time.

Brief Facts: Law enforcement executed a search warrant at the home of Kelvin Crumpton for a drugs and firearms investigation. Prior to questioning Crumpton, an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives offered the following warnings:

(1) "The right to remain silent;" (2) that "anything you say can be used against you in court;" (3) "the right to consult with an attorney and have them present during questioning;" and (4) that "if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you prior to questioning."

After the warnings, Crumpton made an incriminating statement. During a second interview, Crumpton was again read his rights, however the agent

added a fifth warning that said "if you decide to answer any questions now without a lawyer present, you have the right to stop answering questions at any time." Crumpton made more statements. The district court suppressed Crumpton's statement because the agent didn't tell Crumpton he had the right to stop answering questions during the first reading of Miranda. The government appealed to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Court's Findings: The court examined the warnings read to Crumpton and reversed the district court. The court made clear that officers are only required to read a suspect the enumerated four warnings. The court noted that a defendant need not be informed of a right to stop questioning after the questioning has begun.



Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LawEnforcementBulletin for a monthly newsletter on key court cases and www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates to sign up for that and other newsletters.



Unfit K-9 units could be decertified under rule change

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) voted May 12 to give its executive director the ability to revoke the certification of any dysfunctional law enforcement K-9 unit.

The OPOTC passed a motion to grant that authority after Justin Hykes, the commission's director of administration, reported that complaints have come in about some K-9s that have bitten other officers during training exercises.

K-9 units are certified annually by the executive director.

If the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) signs off on the change, it will go into effect on Jan. 1.

BLACK HAWK DOWN

continued from page 1

What can we expect from your Oct. 5 speech?

My son-in-law is a deputy sheriff. I will make it clear how strongly I feel about first responders – law enforcement, fire and rescue, EMS, EMTs, and our military. At this time, I don't know of any profession that is tougher than wearing the uniform as a first responder. I think they deserve to know that people do care. I don't think they get thanked enough.

I will also talk about leadership. In the Army, we use the acronym LDRSHIP. Those letters stand for seven values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. I focus very clearly on those. ... The one I pick as my No. 1 of those seven values is respect. That's what I will harp on.

At the time of your speech, it will be almost exactly 23 years since the events in Somalia. How did that day affect you?

It definitely changed my life. I lost six of my kids, my Rangers. That impact will never change. The other guys, the Delta Force guys who died, were ones I had become close to, were some of my best friends, and they died, too. The impact of that day will never go away.

Of the six of mine who died, I'm still in touch with four of their families. Since 1993, I have made a journey every five years to visit my guys' gravesites. The impact is there. It will always be there. And when I'm laid to rest, it will go with me.

Did you watch Black Hawk Down when it first came out?



Tom Sizemore as Lt. Col. Danny McKnight in *Black Hawk Down* (Sony Pictures)

When the movie came out on Jan. 18, which was a Friday, I did not go see it. I chose to go on Sunday afternoon because I thought that most people would be in church. So, I went at 1 p.m. and there were only

five seats empty. I didn't want people around me, but there they were.

When the movie was over, I sat and collected myself. When I got up to leave, most of the people had cleared out. I saw a couple on my right. The young man sitting there with his wife saw me, and I stopped. In the movie, there's a guy named Scott Galentine who had his thumb shot off. That's who was watching the movie with me. We had a very emotional reunion in that theater.

Read the extended interview at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CriminalJusticeUpdate.

Remains identified through Project LINK

Skeletal remains found on March 22 in Lorain County were recently identified through the Ohio Attorney General's Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known).



Angela Marie Hall, a 25-year-old mother of four from Lorain County, was last seen in August 1997.



Hall case and contacted the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

On June 20, the DNA from one of Hall's family members was provided by the sheriff's office to the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). The lab compared the sample to DNA from the remains and a match was made.

The sheriff's office is continuing an investigation into Hall's death. Anyone with information is asked to call **440-329-3742**.

The clothes and jewelry found at the site provided little information about the woman's identity, but Lt. Ed Super of the Lorain Police Department thought of the

A forensic scientist checks data on DNA samples taken at a BCI lab in London.

Total numbers (remains and missing persons)

- 230** Total number of LINK cases opened at BCI
- 74** - Number of closed cases
- 156** - Active LINK cases

* As of Aug. 9



Group members experience high-speed chase without the risk

Before creating a model vehicle pursuit policy that can be used by law enforcement throughout the state, members of the Attorney General's advisory group spent some time recently chasing suspects in a simulator.

Scott Whatley and Ryan Born of the Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) brought a mobile simulator used to train officers to the parking lot of the Columbus Police Academy, where the group was meeting, and invited members — especially those who have never been involved in a pursuit — to take a turn at the wheel.

One group member was early in a pursuit when he blew through an intersection and was hit by a green car. Whatley pointed out his mistake — not clearing every lane before going through the light.

"This is a very humbling scenario," Whatley said. A replay can be used to show an officer's mistakes.

After the simulator session, group members went back to their work of weighing the pros and cons of vehicle pursuits and drafting a model policy.

Simulators available upon request

The Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) has seven mobile simulators available free upon request to law enforcement agencies.



Typically, the driver will start with basic skills, such as hand placement, head movement, and dealing with normal distractions. Then, the driver will run through scenarios to practice the proper clearance of intersections. The scenarios bring up discussions about where to stop, what to look for, and what is most important at that moment.

To request a training, email AskOPOTA@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.



The techniques

While many departments limit or prohibit the use of vehicle-pursuit termination techniques, some methods used by law enforcement to stop a fleeing vehicle include:

Channeling: Directing a suspect's vehicle onto a given path by using stationary objects placed in the predicted and undesirable path.

Hollow spikes and spike strips: A tire-deflation tool that can be placed in the path of a suspect's vehicle.

Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT): A controlled move used by law enforcement to push a suspect's car into a spin in order to bring a chase to an end.

Rolling roadblock: A technique used to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then simultaneously slowing all vehicles.

Lucas County Sheriff's Office aims to reduce risks posed by high-speed pursuits with GPS tracking technology



In an effort to prevent high-speed pursuits, the Lucas County Sheriff's Office purchased a high-tech solution: GPS tags and launchers.

Five cruisers have been outfitted with double-barreled launchers that use compressed air to deploy sticky tracking tags at a distance of a few car lengths. Deputies will be able to fire GPS tags onto a fleeing vehicle and then ease back from the pursuit. Responding units and dispatchers can follow the suspect's vehicle remotely at safe speeds, planning where and how to make the arrest.

"The tracking is in real time," said Lt. Matt Luetke, who oversees the officers who will be using the technology. The pursuit is "street by street, turn by turn using GPS," he said. "Not a procession of cars driving behind a suspect vehicle but rather cars being sent to an area where the suspect vehicle is going or has stopped."

Using money from the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, the sheriff's office bought the launchers. As the GPS tags are used, the department can exchange them for new ones at no cost, based on the optional service package.

'SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS' SEEKS TO END CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

On a Thursday afternoon, seven men sat quietly in the jury box of a Butler County courtroom listening to testimony about the suffering caused by gun violence. They weren't part of a jury, though, in fact, they were called to the court by their parole officers to listen to a warning about the perils of criminal life.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office arranges such call-ins not only in Hamilton, but also in Akron, Ashtabula, Euclid, Fostoria, Fremont, Lima, Middletown, Sandusky, Steubenville, and Warren, as part of the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The initiative assists communities experiencing a high level of gun violence by focusing on the most violent offenders. Before each call-in, the coordinator of the initiative, Assistant Attorney General Bob Fiatal, and an analyst from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation talk to law enforcement officers about violence and drug activity. Then, they sort through cases and see which of the violent offenders are on probation or parole and ask them to attend the call-in.

"We want to give these individuals the opportunity to walk away from the culture of crime and to outline the very serious consequences they'll face if they decide instead to commit another violent act," said Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

Representatives from law enforcement, the community, social services, pastors, and victims of crime are invited to speak at call-in events.

"The community's most violent criminals, and gang leaders on parole or probation, are directed to appear and then urged by local law enforcement to either change their ways and seek help if they need it, or face severe penalties if they commit more violent crimes," Fiatal said.

The stakes are high for the call-in participants. At the one

in Butler County, Hamilton Police Chief Craig Bucheit presented a display showing members of two area gangs. He pointed out the members who had been killed, those who are facing charges, and those who have been sent to prison.

"If you're running a gang. If you're out there selling dope, if you're carrying guns, we're going to come after you," he said. "I don't want you on this board; I don't want you dead; and I don't want you sitting in prison. But that is absolutely what's going to happen if you don't change your path."

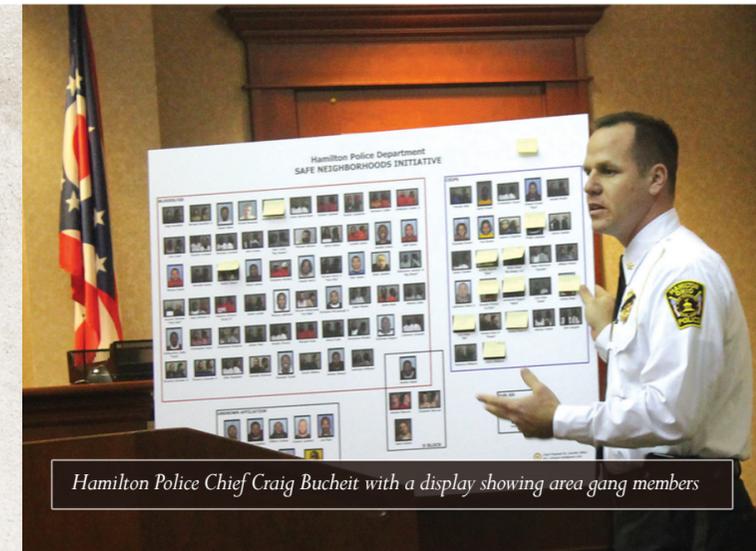
The call-in participants cringed when Jennifer Mason, an emergency medical services manager, showed graphic images of gunshot wounds and talked about living with serious injuries.

"You play the game of carrying the gun, you might survive it, but this is what you have to live with," she said. "They will try to reconstruct you, but you won't be the same."

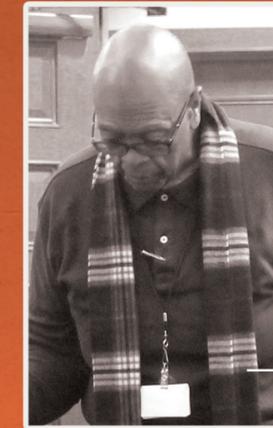
They grew especially somber when Willis Marshall, of the Community Behavioral Health social service hotline talked about the consequences of gang life.

"The actions that you take not only impact you, but impact everybody that cares about you," he said.

For more information on the program contact Fiatal at **216-787-3714** or Robert.Fiatal@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

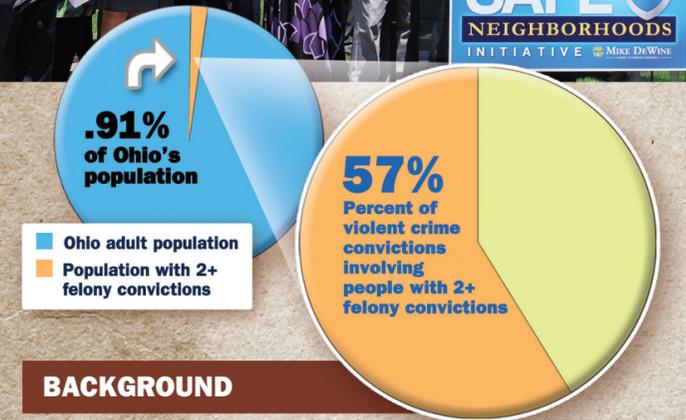


Hamilton Police Chief Craig Bucheit with a display showing area gang members



"I had a 7-year-old child who came in totally distraught about her daddy being out there in the madness. No matter how much that girl prayed, or how many tears she shed, she couldn't get her daddy to change. The only way that's going to stop and get better in this community is you guys stopping."

Will Marshall of the Community Behavioral Health social service hotline



BACKGROUND

The Ohio Attorney General's Safe Neighborhoods Initiative was developed after a study, commissioned as part of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Violent Crimes With Guns Advisory Group, found that between 1974 and 2010, 57 percent of violent crimes were committed by less than 1 percent of Ohio's population.