

January 2003

Volume 27, Number 1

www.policemag.com

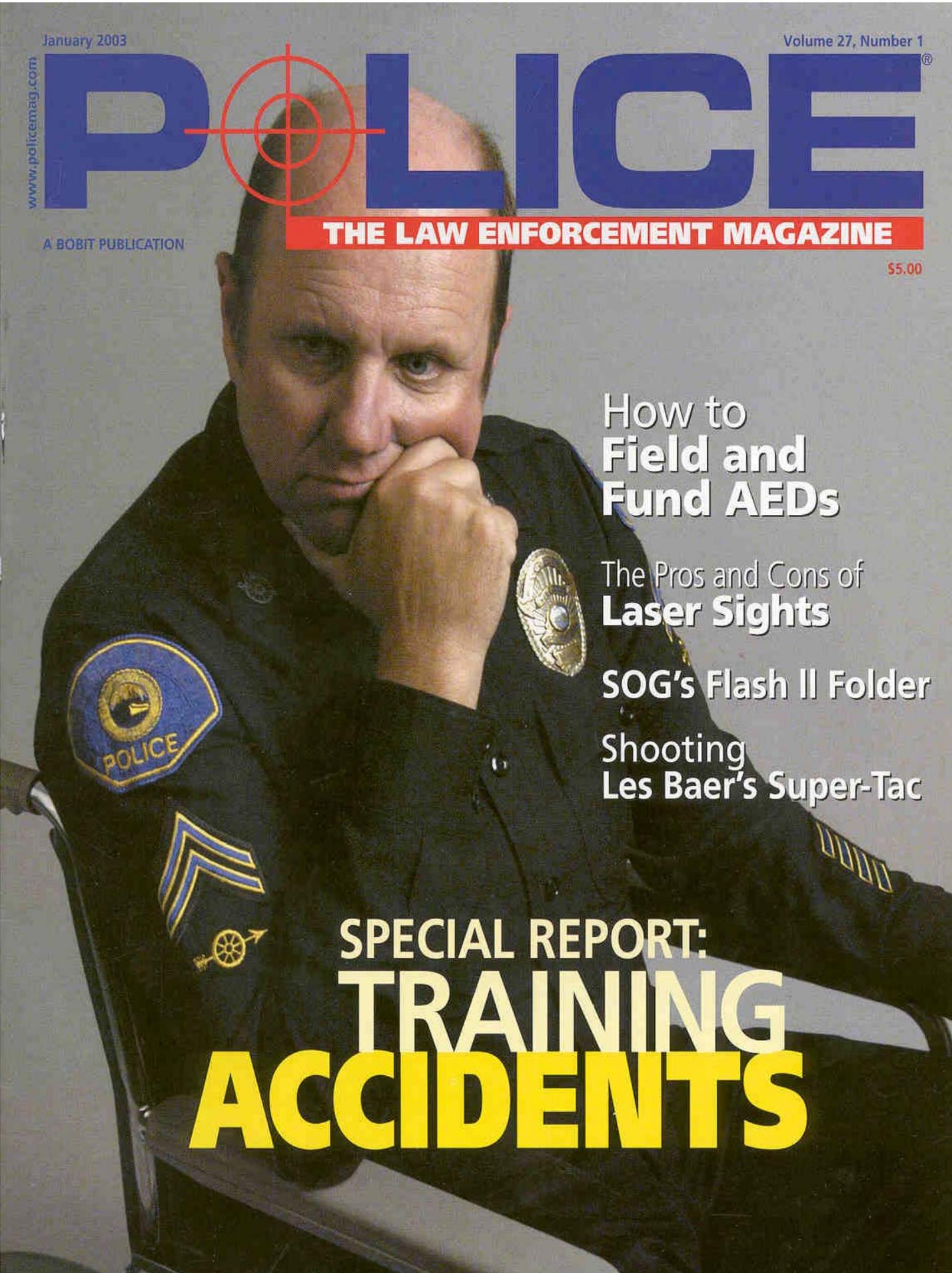
POLICE®



A BOBIT PUBLICATION

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MAGAZINE

\$5.00



How to
**Field and
Fund AEDs**

The Pros and Cons of
Laser Sights

SOG's Flash II Folder

Shooting
Les Baer's Super-Tac

SPECIAL REPORT:
**TRAINING
ACCIDENTS**

Military Technology Creates Futuristic Police Uniforms



A division of the Army is using military technology to update police and corrections officers' uniforms.

A prototype uniform, designed by the National Protection Center (NPC) at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., incorporates existing and potential future military technology into one uniform for the law enforcement and corrections community. It's called the

Law Enforcement/Corrections Tactical Uniform System.

Says David Querim, project engineer for the new uniform, "We're engineers who think of all these things and bring it to the civilian first responder. That's our advantage—to integrate the equipment into one useable item."

Still, the uniform system leaves room to adapt to the individual group or user. Querim envisions a base model that can be fitted with different options for police officers, SWAT teams, or corrections officers.

"I could almost guarantee you that this suit could save a life within its first year of use," says Trooper Craig McGary, with the Massachusetts State Police. McGary has been picked to model the uniform system.

As an example of the uniform system's integrated design, it uses the Army's Objective Force Warrior helmet design for fragmentation and impact protection. It incorporates an illuminator, a global positioning system and radio antenna, and an image intensifier and infrared imaging device that will send the information into an adjustable heads-up display. This way, every team member has an imaging device at all times.

The system will be constructed of three layers, which will consist of a first fabric underwear layer with physiological status monitors; a second one-piece-suit main layer of cotton, nylon, and lycra with a fire-retardant finish; and an optional third layer intended for protection from the weather and chemical and biological agents. A separate vest will provide ballistic protection.

The initial working version of the uniform system is expected to be ready by 2005. The uniform's modular construction will enable designers to make upgrades as technology improves.

Pending Supreme Court Case Could Limit, End Miranda Warnings

A U.S. Supreme Court case could determine whether Miranda warnings should be discarded, relaxing restraints on police interrogations. The requirement for police to inform suspects of their right to remain silent could be scrapped if the U.S. Supreme Court concludes police were justified in aggressively questioning Oliverio Martinez, who was wounded and had not been read his rights.

Sgt. Ben Chavez continued to question Martinez in an ambulance and an emergency room in Oxnard after the man, perceived to be grabbing for Chavez' gun during a scuffle, had been shot five times by Chavez' partner. No Miranda warning was given.

Martinez, who has been blind and paraplegic since the shooting, sued Oxnard for excessive force. He admitted that he grabbed for the officer's gun, but his lawyers say this cannot be used against him because the confession was made during Chavez' questioning, which lawyers say was coerced.

The 9th U.S. Circuit of Appeals agreed with a federal judge that the confession was coerced and could not be used as evidence against Martinez in his case against the city. It said Chavez should have known questioning the man under the circumstances and with no Miranda warning was a violation of his constitutional rights.

Oxnard appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Arguments had not been heard at press time.

Indiana Community Gets First Police Chief in 30 Years

Woodburn, a small northeast Indiana city, recently celebrated the inauguration of its first police chief since the early '70s. Kristopher A. Rice, 35, was sworn in as Woodburn police chief in late July. Rice is a former reserve officer from the Allen County Sheriff's Department, where he served for nearly 10 years.

The new chief says he is pleased with his responsibilities and the job he's done so far. "We had lots of burglaries, auto thefts, and vandalism, and made several arrests, but the crime rate has since dropped 99 percent," he says.

Previous to Rice's appointment, Woodburn had spent in excess of \$60,000 a year contracting with Allen County police officers to patrol its small city. Complaints from Woodburn residents over the response time to their calls prompted Woodburn officials to hire an officer full-time.

Rice has settled into his position and has established a rapport with members of the community of approximately 1,500 residents.

"I've made contact with many of the younger people," Rice says. "Before, they knew when the police were around and when they left. Now I'm here all the time, so they really can't get away with anything."

Rice is very optimistic about his future as Woodburn chief of police. "I'd like to hire another full-timer in 2004. That would make two full-timers and three reserves," he says. "Right now that's my biggest goal."

—Albert Neal