



NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

2018 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

On July 3, 2018, at about 1:23 PM, officers of the Gang Unit of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Police Department initiated a traffic stop for an improper license plate display on a van. The traffic stop took place at a local convenience store with the suspect vehicle parked in the gas pump area. When the officers approached the vehicle they noticed that the driver had moved to the second row of seats in the van he had been driving. The driver was uncooperative with the officers, refusing to provide identification or to follow commands to exit the vehicle. Gang Unit officers negotiated unsuccessfully for several minutes with the suspect before they requested additional officers, as well as an officer with less-lethal munition capabilities.

Shortly after Sergeant Michael Parsons arrived at the scene, the suspect was advised he was under arrest for obstruction and the improper tag display on the vehicle.

The suspect refused to comply with the officers, and he was warned the officers would utilize Pepperball deployment of OC if he did not comply with the orders given.

As Sgt. Parsons began to deliver the Pepperballs, the suspect drew a weapon and fired multiple rounds at Sgt. Parsons and the other officers at the scene.

Sgt. Parsons was struck in his right thigh by one of the suspect's rounds

and fell to the ground nearby, while another officer at the scene returned fire, striking the suspect in his chest and neck area. Though he was suffering from a gunshot wound, Sgt. Parsons maintained his composure, continuing to direct officers at the scene and to cover the suspect vehicle with his service pistol. Even while being dragged to safety by fellow officers, Sgt. Parsons maintained coverage on the suspect vehicle, as the suspect was still actively moving inside the vehicle's interior.

Once behind cover, Sgt. Parsons re-assessed his wounds with the assistance of a police medic. He then began forming an arrest team to apprehend the suspect as he was still a threat to anyone in the area. Sgt. Parsons exercised outstanding judgment and determination in leading the arrest team to take the suspect into custody. Only after the suspect was in custody and no longer a threat to the public did Sgt. Parsons allow himself to be medically treated at the scene and transported to the hospital.

Despite being wounded, Sgt. Parsons continued to show leadership by remaining in-command of the incident and ensured the safety of the other officers and citizens on the scene. He demonstrated sound judgment and good tactics throughout the incident. He had the presence of mind to quickly establish specific roles for different officers, and then lead the arrest team



Sgt. Michael Parsons
*Tulsa Oklahoma
Police Department*

until the suspect was in custody and the scene was rendered safe. As such, it is with great honor and pride the National Rifle Association names Sergeant Michael Parsons as the 2018 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

"I am privileged to join the millions of members of the National Rifle Association in honoring Sergeant Parsons as the NRA's 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," said NRA President Lt. Col. Oliver North. "Sergeant Parsons' outstanding tactical decisions in the heat of battle, his leadership and bravery in response to a serious threat to his fellow officers and innocent lives are a testament to his valor. Indeed, his heroic actions, in spite of being wounded, epitomize the selfless dedication of our men and women of law enforcement to public safety and to the communities they serve."



THE NATIONAL POLICE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE RETURNING TO MISSISSIPPI!

It's official: the National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) has a new home, and we are returning to Mississippi. The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in Pearl will be the new host location for the NPSC.

"We are very excited to be returning to Mississippi," said Glen Hoyer, director of the NRA's Law Enforcement Division. "I know that many of our law enforcement officers are looking forward to our return to Mississippi and I hope they will join us at Pearl."

For more information about the 2019 NRA National Police Shooting Championships, visit npsc.nra.org.

To book accommodations at the 2019 host hotel – The Hilton Jackson on East County Line Road – where the NPSC tuition-free training, banquet and other special events will take place, visit bit.ly/2019-NPSC-Hotel. NPSC competitors are eligible for a special rate and free breakfast at The Hilton Jackson.



NRA School Shield

A National Program With a Local Focus

**BY BRIAN GOLDSTEIN,
NRA SCHOOL SHIELD
TRAINING MANAGER**

Since its inception, the NRA School Shield program has been on a mission to protect our children. A proven and effective way to enhance security in schools is to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment. These assessments provide an all-inclusive approach to analyzing a school's climate, physical security, communications systems and overall preparedness. A vulnerability assessment highlights and reinforces a school's strengths for keeping students and staff safe, and highlights potential areas requiring improvement.

Launched in August 2015, the NRA School Shield Security Assessor Training seeks to facilitate a partnership between schools and local stakeholders in a shared commitment to more secure schools. At the conclusion of this training, participants are adequately primed to conduct school vulnerability assessments and assist schools in recognizing security strengths, as well as potential vulnerabilities.

The NRA School Shield Security Assessor Training continues to grow in both number and geographic reach. From 2015 to 2017, NRA hosted 17 trainings in total, resulting in more than 200 trained assessors. In 2018 alone, NRA School Shield completed 14 trainings and nearly doubled the



“School Shield is a multifaceted program. It does not just focus on guns, or arming teachers, or school shooters. It focuses on school safety.” – Eric Kaiser, Chief of Police, Jourdan, Texas

number of trained assessors across the nation. In 2019, NRA School Shield already has 16 trainings on the calendar – and that's just for the first half of the year! By June, we will have successfully hosted our training in more than half of the nation's states, which is a testament to the demand for this unique and vital resource. What's more, NRA offers this training at no cost. It is completely free to host and free to attend, thanks to the generous support of NRA Members and supporters.

As Training Manager, I often receive feedback from participants who have attended the training. Many have said they are eager to take best practices they have learned from the training and immediately apply them toward their local schools and communities. Participants also shared that the training is eye-opening and informative to vulnerabilities or security concerns that they wouldn't have otherwise

identified before attending the training. Our training is consistently praised for being in-depth and engaging, leaving participants confident in their new skills to make our nation's schools more secure. During the past year, many individuals who have hosted or attended our training have provided video testimonials, which are currently featured on our website:

[NRASchoolShield.org/training](https://www.NRASchoolShield.org/training).

As NRA School Shield continues to grow, we welcome the chance to work with any community in need who shares our commitment to protecting our children. For more information about hosting or attending one of our Security Assessor Trainings, please contact us by phone at (844) 467-7723 or via email at info@nraschoolshield.org.

Teaching Police Families Not to Become Victims

BY OFFICER BRIAN C. SMITH
STEGER POLICE DEPARTMENT,
STEGER, ILLINOIS

The Metropolitan Police Self-Defense Institute (MPSDI) is a private training group in the south suburbs of Chicago, founded by Brian C. Smith in the early 1980s. The mission was to train law enforcement personnel in firearms, defensive tactics, and SWAT classes. Both Brian and Gary Hibbs, who are active police officers and lead instructors for the MPSDI, have seen their share of threats and attacks on the police officer's families. These incidents inspired the two instructors to implement a class to give the families options in self-protection.

In 2010, Brian and Gary created a training program titled "Basic Pistol Fundamentals for Police Wives." They volunteered their time to teach the police officers' wives how to shoot a handgun in self-defense. The course is free of charge for the students to attend, but they are responsible for the expenses of their range fees and NRA Basic Pistol student packets.

After completion of this eight-hour class, the participants earn their Basic Pistol Shooting Certification, which (effective as of January 2014) complies with the eight hours towards the 16 hours required to apply for the Illinois Concealed Carry License.

The class kicks off with a two-hour classroom segment of training, discussion, and demonstrating handgun manipulation with clearly indicated dummy rounds. The instructors constantly reinforce range safety along with safe firearms handling.

When the instructors are satisfied with the class's firearms familiarization, the group then moves on to live fire at the range. The class may consist of shooters who completely lack experience to shooters who are familiar with firearms. The initial instruction is remedial and evolves into more challenging drills.

The class concludes with a 36-round handgun qualification, challenging the participants' shooting proficiency at various distances. The qualification scores are calculated and divided into



the three rank proficiency categories of Marksman, Sharpshooter, or Expert.

The title of the course is not necessarily restricted to just police wives. Daughters, mothers, and girlfriends of police and firefighters are also invited to fill the spots in class.

After hosting this class for the last nine years, every May, July and October, the program has saturated the area and is now open to all women who want to participate. We try not to turn anyone away, but we sometimes have a waiting list. With the training staff currently up to seven trainers, the class can safely ac-

commodate up to 20 students per training session. The program has grown in popularity.

MPSDI won the 2012 and 2013 Public Service Award presented by the National Rifle Association at the fall Board of Directors meeting in Arlington, Virginia. The course has also gained the attention and sponsorship of the American Police Hall of Fame and the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

With support from the community and the list organizations, we hope to continue this public service for many years to come.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brian C. Smith is a retired captain from the Chicago Heights Police Department and a former police chief. He is currently serving part-time at Steger Police Department and full-time at Prairie State College Police Department in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Brian founded the Metropolitan Police Self-Defense Institute in 1981 with the mission to teach defensive tactics and firearms to civilians and law enforcement personnel.

Brian is a longtime trainer who was appointed as an NRA Firearms Training Counselor in 2012. He has acquired approximately 44 instructor certifications in topics such as firearms, defensive tactics, use of force, and tactical team operations. He was named the 2014 Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor of the Year by the NRA Law Enforcement Division and also named 2016 Trainer of the Year by ILEETA. In 2018, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for IALEFI and conducts firearms training for several public and private police agencies in the area.

He is also a freelance writer with articles appearing in many law enforcement and firearms publications. He is also a member in good standing with NTOA, American Federation of Police, National Association of Chiefs of Police, and a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 184th session.

Brian can be reached at brownhornet525@yahoo.com or smithb525@gmail.com.



Thoughts on Firearms in the Home and Kids

BY RONALD FLOWERS

I grew up in the South, a somewhat different culture and clearly, in a different time. Guns, hunting, and target shooting were part of our existence.

The glass-encased gun rack was a fixture in many homes. The neighborhood fathers were all hunters, WWII or Korean War veterans, or both. I cannot remember the first lesson I had on the safe use of a firearm, but I am fairly sure it was with my Dad's old single-shot bolt-action Remington 22 caliber rifle. The stock had been cut down when he was a boy, to better fit his small stature.

We used it to target shoot. Every Christmas, we'd go out in the woods and shoot down mistletoe for the house. In time, I hunted squirrels with it. I even shot at a fish one time, knocking it out and bringing it to shore. (I didn't know about light refraction, so it must have been some kind of hydrostatic shock as the bullet passed it.)

Growing up, we matured into using shotguns for birds, rabbits, and deer. Then, we graduated to higher-caliber deer rifles. Some in the family hunted bigger game, and some even hunted with high-powered pistols.

What was consistent in the our upbringing – and the upbringing of all the young kids I knew – was early exposure to what a firearm was, what it was used for (whether it was hunting or sporting purposes), how it functioned, and the safe use of each and every one.

The natural curiosity a child has for anything their parents do was addressed, as early as our parents felt we were able to understand. The opportuni-

ty for that curiosity to grow to the point where a child would seek access without permission never evolved, because we had already been allowed to learn, under supervision, the importance of safe handling and use. No, we weren't out shooting while toddlers, but we did target shoot at very early ages, by today's standards.

I can fondly recall going bird hunting with my cousins and our fathers. My cousins and I acted as bird dogs for the doves our fathers brought down. We soon graduated to smaller shotguns, dove hunting on our own. By the time we were 10 years old or so, it was common for us boys to go hunting together, without any adults, in the mountains behind my cousins' home.

Some of my best memories are long weekends, usually close to Christmas, when the parents would all get together and go to a dinner or dance, and my cousins and I would go off to the mountains to hunt. We'd be camping and hunting in the woods for days at a time, with no one older than 14 to 16 years old.

What is the point of this trip down memory lane? It's not to pine for the days gone by, nor to compare growing up in the North versus the South. Plenty of kids all over this great land had and are having similar childhoods.

Rather it is to point out and support the importance of responsible parents who recognize the importance of educating their children as early as possible about the necessity of safety around firearms. Whether firearms exist in your home or not, your children will soon be out in the world. A gun, improperly handled in someone else's home or place of

business, is just as dangerous.

Kids need education about the purpose, function, and safe handling of a firearm as early as they can absorb it. Their curiosity will not be denied, and they will find a way to satisfy it. Let it be satisfied under your control, your direction, and guided by your morality to best keep them safe around any firearms, in your home or elsewhere.

Any parent with even a little experience will tell you that you cannot keep things like the presence of a firearm in the home a secret. Sooner or later, they will find it.

If you don't own a firearm, your kids will eventually be exposed to one, perhaps by an equally inexperienced friend. Don't let them remain ignorant about the safety that is required in handling one. Proper education in these matters will give your children the confidence to recognize unsafe or improper handling of a firearm and the courage to walk away from it.

We can choose to not have any firearms in our own home and decide that the ability to protect the home and family can wait. But we can't control what happens in other families or other environments. We can, however, prepare our kids to be as safe as possible in the world as it is.



Parents of younger children: The NRA's Eddie Eagle program has proven to be effective and a life-saver.

Get more information here:
eddieeagle.nra.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ron Flowers has over 20 years of training and law enforcement experience. He is a graduate of Alvernia University, receiving his master's degree in December 2009. He is a retired Municipal Police Education and Training Commission and Pennsylvania State Police certified instructor, and was an instructor and commanding officer for the Allentown Police Academy.

While with the Allentown Police Department, he worked in the patrol division, criminal investigations, and vice/narcotics. He was promoted to sergeant and served as a supervisor in patrol, criminal investigations and vice/narcotics. He was promoted to lieutenant and commanding officer of the Allentown Police Academy. There, he managed the Basic Academy, in-service training for municipal police, and assisted in the development of training involving firearm use and tactical implementation. During his career with the Allentown Police, Ron gained significant investigative experience, being a part of federal task forces as a deputized task force officer with the FBI and DEA.



BLUE LINE BEARS

Blue Line Bears is a non-profit started by teenager Megan O'Grady in Cape Coral, Florida.

After the attack on Dallas in 2016 when five officers were ambushed and killed in the line of duty, Megan wanted to step up and help the families of fallen police officers.

She makes custom teddy bears for the families of fallen officers out of the uniform shirt of the officer. Each bear has the name and number of the officer on the stomach, the End of Watch date on one foot and "Blue Line Bears" on the other, the name of who the bear is going to on the hand, and a St. Michael medal around the bear's neck.

Megan has made over 460 bears for officers in over 36 states and one in Canada.

Blue Line Bears can be reached by email at bluelinebears1@gmail.com or on Facebook at [Blue Line Bears](#).



2019 NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Development Schools

<http://LE.NRA.org/Training> • LE@nrahq.org • (703) 267-1640

New schools are added often. Check website frequently for current Training Schedule.

Range fee, if any, is payable to some hosting agencies; amount varies.

NRA Tuition = \$645 per person

HANDGUN & SHOTGUN

May 13-17 Garden Plain, KS
 May 13-17 Lexington, SC
 May 20-24 Gunnison, CO
 May 20-24 Pearl, MS
 June 10-14 Florence, AL
 June 17-21 Leesport, PA
 June 17-21 Olympia, WA
 June 24-28 Okla. City, OK (public LE & military only)
 June 24-28 Salem, CT
 July 8-12 Garden Plain, KS
 July 15-19 Florence, AL
 July 29-Aug. 2 San Diego, CA
 Aug. 12-16 Florence, AL
 Aug. 19-23 Ashburn, GA
 Sep. 9-13 Florence, AL
 Sep. 9-13 Valhalla, NY
 Sep. 16-20 Summerville, SC
 Sep. 16-20 Bethlehem, PA
 Sep. 16-20 Gulfport, MS
 Oct. 21-25 Florence, AL
 Oct. 28-Nov. 1 Sugar Creek, MO
 Nov. 4-8 Allison Park, PA
 Nov. 11-15 Pearl, MS
 Nov. 11-15 Piedmont, AL
 Nov. 18-22 Leesport, PA
 Dec. 2-6 Stapleton, AL
 Dec. 16-20 San Antonio, TX
 June 8-12'20 Hutto, TX

Oct 14-18 Florence, AL
 Oct 21-25 Sugar Creek, MO
 Oct 28-Nov 1 Florence, AL
 Nov 4-8 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Mar 23-27'20 Merriam, KS
 Aug 24-28'20 Hutto, TX

PRECISION RIFLE

June 24-28 Phoenix, AZ (public LE & military only)
 July 22-26 Garden Plain, KS
 Sep. 9-13 Florence, AL
 Nov. 4-8 Tuscaloosa, AL
 July 13-17'20 Hutto, TX

SELECT-FIRE

June 17-21 Garden Plain, KS
 Sep. 9-13 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Oct. 7-11 Littleton, CO

TACTICAL SHOOTING

May 13-17 West Bloomfield, MI
 May 13-17 Summerville, SC
 May 20-24 San Antonio, TX
 June 3-7 Garden Plain, KS
 June 10-14 Frederick, MD (public LE & military only)
 Aug. 19-23 Leesport, PA
 Aug. 26-30 Chehalis, WA
 Sep. 9-13 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Sep. 23-27 Bethlehem, PA
 Oct. 21-25 Pearl, MS
 Nov. 11-15 Florence, AL

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

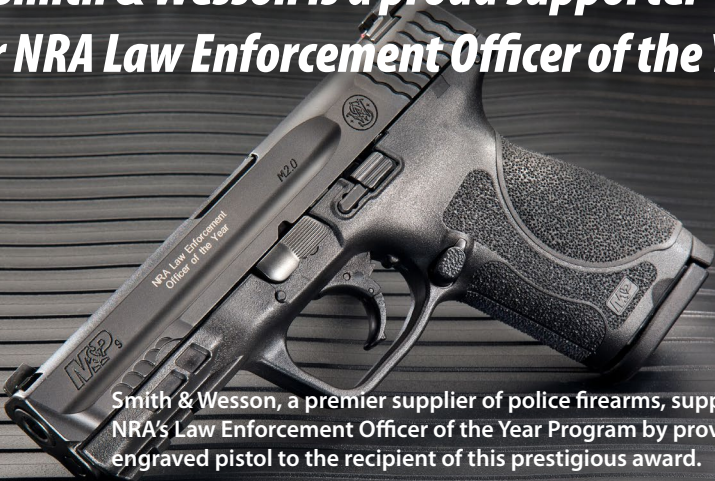
Aug. 19-23 Garden Plain, KS
 Oct. 14-18 San Antonio, TX

HANDGUN

May 13-17 Littleton, CO
 June 24-28 Defiance, MO (public LE only)
 July 15-19 Egg Harbor Township, NJ
 July 29-Aug 2 Frederick, MD (public LE & military only)
 Sep. 23-27 Henderson/Boulder, NV
 Sep. 23-27 Richmond, CA
 Oct. 21-25 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Nov. 18-22 San Antonio, TX
 Nov. 18-22 Homestead, FL
 Apr. 20-24'20 Macomb, IL

PATROL RIFLE

May 13-17 Boulder City, NV
 May 20-24 Florence, AL
 May 20-24 Garden Plain, KS
 June 10-14 Coatesville, PA
 July 15-19 Tuscaloosa, AL
 July 15-19 Leesport, PA
 July 22-26 Egg Harbor Township, NJ
 Aug. 5-9 Garden Plain, KS
 Aug. 5-9 Littleton, CO
 Aug. 5-9 Manchester, NJ
 Aug. 19-23 Chehalis, WA
 Aug. 26-30 Montrose, CO
 Sep. 9-13 Bethlehem, PA
 Sep. 23-27 Defiance, MO (public LE only)
 Sep. 30-Oct. 4 Summerville, SC
 Sep. 30-Oct. 4 Monroeville, PA (public LE only)



Smith & Wesson is a proud supporter of our NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Smith & Wesson, a premier supplier of police firearms, supports the NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Program by providing an engraved pistol to the recipient of this prestigious award.

Our thanks to Smith & Wesson – and congratulations to our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sgt. Michael Parsons!

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(800) NRA-3888

Law Enforcement website:
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NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Manuals and Training Aids



To order training aids and materials on CD:
<http://LECDs.nra.org>

To order printed manuals:
<http://materials.nrahq.org/go>



NRA



DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE:

**Handgun Handgun/Shotgun
Patrol Rifle Tactical Shotgun
Precision Rifle**

Sales of these items are restricted to NRA Certified Instructors, sworn Law Enforcement Officers, bona fide Law enforcement agencies, armed security companies, and the U.S. military. Once your order is received, you may be contacted by a member of the Law Enforcement Activities Division to verify eligibility.