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page 4

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Staff

Editor - Norm Schrein
Writers - Jon Van Allen, Eddie Muro, Chuck Gysi, Mark Meece, Alan Dixon, Jim Sutton, Tom Swisher, Dorothy Rieke, T.J. "Skip" Arey, and Gordon West
Production: The Graphic Image

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President - Norm Schrein



Tijuana's Finest

By: Norm Schrein, KA8PGJ

A Look at a Mexican Border Town

When Chuck Anderson of San Diego and Rogelio Verber of Tijuana first set up a radio communications system for the Tijuana Police Department some years ago, they probably had no idea then of how vital their labor would be to this Mexican border town. Since then, many pieces of communication gear have come and gone, some of it disappearing rather mysteriously. According to Chuck, "First the handheld radio disappeared, then the mobiles." The original General Electric repeater systems installed on San Antonio Mountain are still functioning and serving the city quite well. I rode along with two of Tijuana's finest, Supervisor Gerardo Santacruz Moreno and Officer Jose Luis Lugo Baez. They told me that they depend on their radio equipment heavily. In fact, they say they have an ear tuned to the radio during every minute of their watch.

Some Tijuana Background

The Tijuana Police Department has a new director. He is Victor Manuel Vazquez Fernandez, a former judge and attorney. His predecessor, Fredrico Benitez Lopez was cut down in a hail of gunfire on February 24, 1994. Director Lopez was responding to the airport on the report of a bomb. The report was just a setup and both Lopez and his bodyguard were ambushed while in route to the call. "No one knows who or why they were shot," says Gerardo, my host for the day, "But I was the last one to talk to him before the incident, and I did it via my radio. Five minutes later he was dead."

Tijuana has all the trappings of a border town. The main street of town plays to the thousands of tourists who come daily, but just off the main street is a part of Tijuana that most tourists do not see. Known as the "Red Zone", this is an area of approximately 150 bars. "We are constantly making arrests here mostly for fights and robberies -- all day and all night." In fact, on the weekends it is not unusual to see six hundred arrests in the "Red Zone" alone. Other crimes worthy of note in Tijuana, according to Gerardo are graffiti, sex offenses, drugs, burglaries and traffic violations.

It is not unusual to see high speed chases in Tijuana either. Gerardo noted that "A problem with the cars is that they run away from the police. This happens all day, every day. Many times these cars contain illegal people and drugs. Sometimes the cars are coming from the U.S. to Mexico. In the United States they do not want to stop the vehicles because they might make an accident. Once they come here they stop. They have to stop."

Other policing problems include gang members from the U.S. who come to Tijuana. "They bring in guns and knives, and they come to fight on the weekends." Gerardo Said. San Diego's naval bases provide many tourists in the form of sailors who come to town to have a good time. For the most part, they do not cause the police a problem, except for those who drink too much and get into fights. When they are arrested by Tijuana Police, they plead for them to let them go with a warning, not because they are afraid of the police, but they are afraid of the consequences they face when the Shore Patrol has to come to pick them up in Tijuana.

Gerardo has seen more than his share of violence during his eight years as a police officer. On seven occasions, he had to shoot someone and on another occasion he was shot. One of the shootings involved Gerardo and another man, who had just one week earlier, gotten out of prison after serving a sentence for murder. The man was burglarizing the home of a federal judge when Gerardo was dispatched to the scene. "He saw me and tried to shoot me, but I shot him first. He did not want to put down the gun. He had been in the house and had gotten a lot of jewelry and other valuables. When I saw him, he was outside. First, he shot one time in the air. He was trying to get out of the garage, so I went into the garage. I went in front of him and he shot at me. I took cover behind the wall. Then I shot three times and hit him twice. He was hit in the chest, but would not drop the gun. We just stood there facing each other. Then after about two minutes he started bleeding from the mouth, and then he fell down. The man was using a 357 magnum revolver and Gerardo was using a 9 mm automatic. The burglar died two days later in a Tijuana hospital. Asked if he was scared during the shooting incident, Gerardo replied, "No because it was not the first time for me."

The Matter at Hand

All of a sudden, our quiet patrol became an emergency run across the main and back streets of Tijuana. Weaving in and out of traffic, some of which refused to stop, they headed up towards San Antonio Mountain to a residential area of Tijuana. Not only were these two officers making an emergency run, but several other car loads of officers with lights flashings and sirens screaming, were on the way to the emergency. According to Gerardo, they had a report of a burglary in progress with people inside the house. The person who called in the complaint was a female, and they did not know if she was in danger or not.

When they arrived, a half dozen officers scaled a wall that surround-

Continued on page 6



ed a courtyard. Soon it became apparent that the burglary involved a house that had been previously sealed by federal police in a drug case. Apparently, there was no burglary as most of the furnishings and other property had been stolen earlier. Instead, the probable burglar was a vagrant looking for a place to sleep. When police approached, he fled.

After the burglary call, Gerardo and Jose stepped back into their unit (#1102) to continue the patrol. They checked on another unit who made a traffic stop. As they patrolled, they kept their ears tuned to their radio awaiting another call from "Central." While they waited, they patrolled through the "Red Zone" for one last time before refueling their vehicle. Soon their shift would be over.

Tijuana police officers rotate standard shifts every fifteen days. According to Gerardo, the busiest shift is from 7AM to 3 PM. He said. "That is because there are a lot of people about. If someone shoots at you, you can't shoot back because you might shoot an innocent person. At night, it's very quiet. You can work very well. You can follow cars, have a pursuit, everything -- you can shoot everybody if they shoot at you. In the day, it is very dangerous because of all the offices, stores and banks open and with all the money. People who don't know the work think that night is dangerous, but it is really the day shift that holds the most danger.

It's a Wrap.

Tijuana is a town with a population of over two million persons and a police department of only 1,300 officers. It has many of the same problems other border town face -- illegal aliens, drug and gun runners and others who make an illegal living on the border. Much of what the officer's encounter is violent, and they have to be prepared to face such violence. Gerardo and Jose put their lives on the line every day for the citizens of Tijuana as well as all the tourists that visit that city.

Table 1

In 1994 we listed the following frequencies for the Tijuana Police Department

Base	Mobile	Zone
166.6500	168.6500	Central
166.3000	169.2250	La Mesa
166.4250	169.3250	San Antonio
166.5250	169.5500	Playas
166.7250	169.800	Rosarito
166.6250	169.8250	La Presa
166.1000	170.100	Mesa de Otay
166.6750	166.6750	Tactical (SWAT)
169.0500	169.0500	Bank Escort
161.3000	158.6250	Link to State Police
151.4000	150.2500	Link to Fire Department



Looking around on the internet we found the following listed as belonging to the Tijuana Police Department.

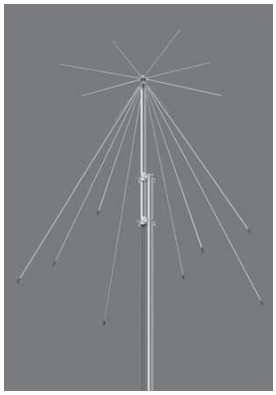
166.1000
166.1250
166.4250
166.5250
166.8000



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AH8000 *Order #1945* **$269.95**

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Our Radio Conventions

If you are a long time National Communications magazine reader, you may have attended one of the two radio conventions we held. Our first was in July of 1995 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The convention featured both inside and outside exhibits and seminars. The attendance was good despite the 105 degree temperatures.



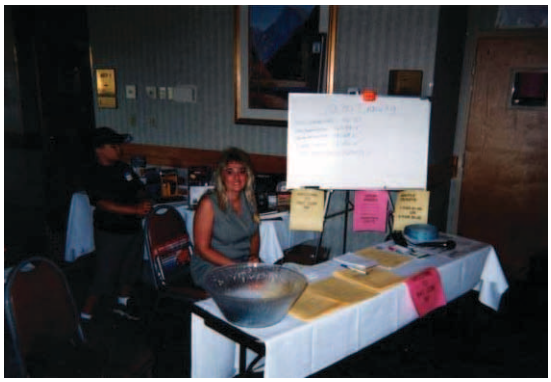
Our second endeavor was held in Mason, Ohio (Between Cincinnati & Dayton) in July of 1999. Once again the program featured speakers as well as indoor & outdoor exhibits. The show featured over $3,000 in prizes that were given away in hourly drawing over the course of the show. Exhibitors included RadioShack, Universal Radio, Startek, Computer Media Concepts, REACT, All Ohio Scanner Club and Hobby Radio Stop.



The seminars featured speakers from FEMA, the United States Secret Service and Delta Airlines as well as technical forums on scanning. Also held was a shortwave listening and Gene Hughes gave a forum on Volunteering.

There was a radio room, including an array of scanners and a CB radio tuned to channel 19.

Contained on the next pages are some pictures from the two events.








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We're Hot!



Communications on the Battlefield

This story originally was published in the January/February 1999 edition of National Communications.

Years ago I was in the U.S. Army stationed in Da Nang, South Vietnam. I worked at a Signal Battalion there and I can remember hearing stories of how we would gather information on the NVA and Viet-Cong by monitoring all sorts of radio frequencies. What none of us knew at the time was that the enemy was doing the same thing to us.

It was later learned that the enemy would buy off the shelf radio receivers from Radio Shack, convert them to pick up our military communications and hand write down the information they gleaned off the air about our troop movements and anything else we transmitted. Now the radio equipment they had were not the sophisticated scanners of today. I can remember that I took an Electra Little Tiger converter with me to Vietnam to see if I could hear anything, which I did not. The Little Tiger was at that time one of the latest receivers available. So the Vietnamese were using simple radio receivers with inaccurate tuning and limited receivers to gain tons of information on us.

Born out of our experiences in Vietnam, the U.S. Military developed the SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground & Airborne Radio System) which is being used today.

SINCGARS is composed of a receiver and a transmitter. Together, the Receiver-transmitter has many capabilities and features. Some of those features include:

1. Single channel frequency modulation (FM) operation in VHF band between 30 and 89.975 MHz.
2. Frequency hopping.
3. Preset channels. Eight for single channel mode and six for frequency hopping mode.
4. Quick, silent, push-button digital tuning.
5. Visual electronic displays (for quick checks and prompts).
6. Self-test for fast checking of equipment condition.
7. Voice and digital data communication.
8. 2320 Single channel operation channels
9. Can handle secure traffic without attached equipment.

Current SINCGARS are actually analog transmitters which transmit voice and digital signals. The new SINCGARS which will be provided by ITT will actually transmit digitally rather than analog.

Major John Di Renzo is the Battlefield Co-ordinator Detachment Project Officer at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He said that "The SINCGARS replaced the old Vietnam Era PRC 77 radios which were not secure." By listening to the PRC 77 and similar non-secure communications the Vietnamese Army was able to gather tactical information with their off the shelf receivers.

According to Major Di Renzo the first radios had to attach a manual security encoder. "The problem with this type of encoder was that it was manually set and if the vehicle would hit a bump in the road, the whole thing would re-set to the clear mode," he said. Later units had the encryption unit made as part of the radio.

Because the units transmit digitally they cannot be heard on an analog receiver. But in addition the transmitters frequency hop to the tune of 100 channels per second. "The whole idea to frequency hopping is to beat the jam," Major Di Renzo said. The enemy would have to have a radio that frequency hopped in the same order as the one transmitting in order to jam it.

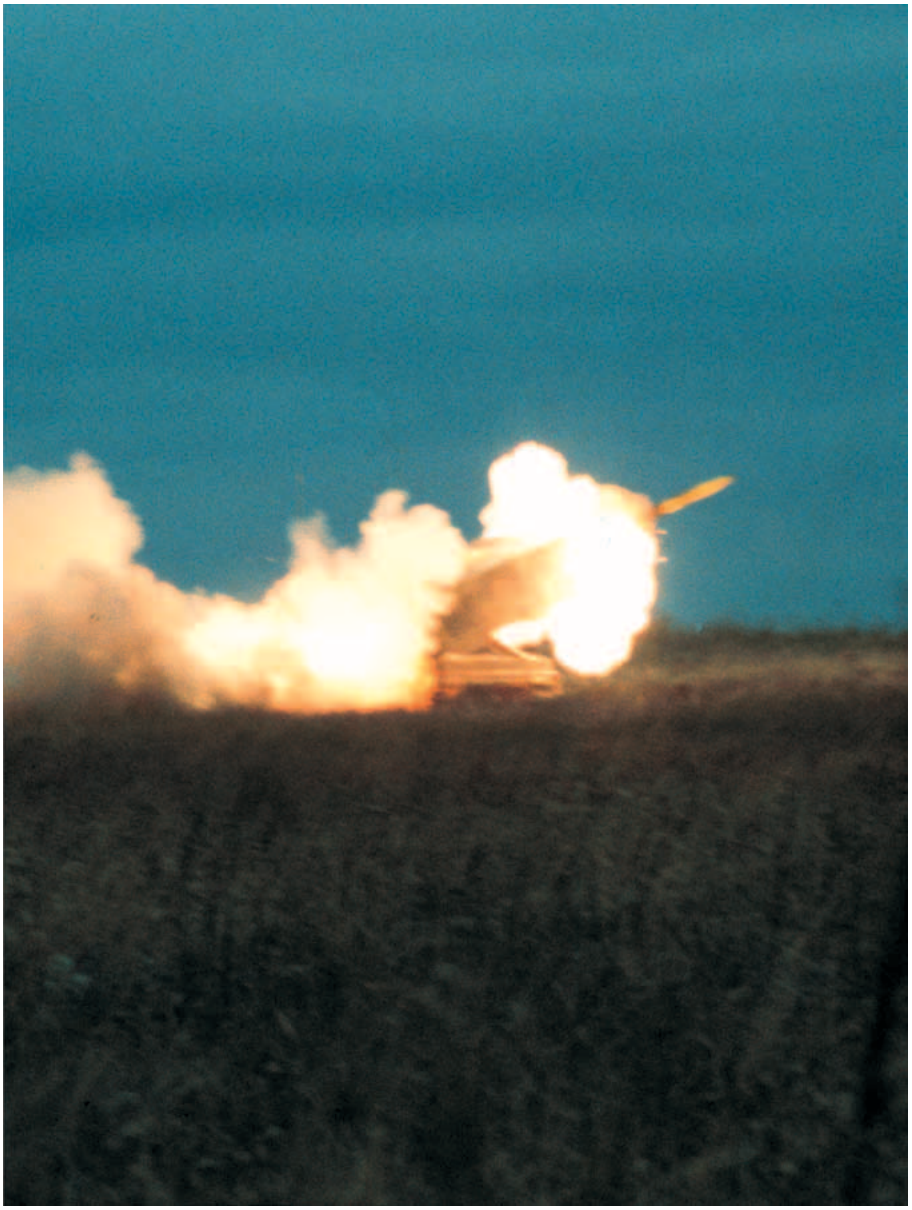
While the enemy may not be able to hear what is being said on these new radios, they can still DF (Direction Find) the transmitter and attack that location. For that very reason the military has several options open to them to avoid such an attack.

"The most important thing is to break down and move. We are highly mobile and some systems may move two or more times a day," Di Renzo said.

Additionally operating at minimal power, keeping transmissions short and shielding their radio location from the enemy receivers by use of the terrain. In other words put a hill between you and the enemy wherever possible. Since the radios work on a line-of-sight principle, shieldingone's transmitting location and using low power may prevent the enemy from locking onto the signal in the first place.

The "Frank Mike" (FM) mode of radio communications is the primary mode of transmission for the Army and Marines. It is primary until they can establish a defense then wire (phone lines) become the primary. The military still has field phones and switchboards and miles of wire. By using a phone line which is essentially secure, one can have a normal conversation without the fear of someone honing in on the signal.

Thomas Smalls is the Chief of Fire Support (Automation Branch) at the U.S. Army's Field Artillery School at



Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He explained that the Army uses the radio equipment in a "Force 21" which is similar to a tactical internet. This is where all the communications from forward observer, to the cannons are done digitally -- from one computer to another.

The forward observer will send his request for a fire mission to the task force fire support element. They will synchronize the attack of a target and co-ordinate for any required clearances -- so as not to kill friendly troops.

The Task force can use the organic mortars assigned to them or send the fire mission up to a brigade fire support element. The brigade has more assets. They may have the availability of the field artillery, navalgunfire, army aviation (helicopters) or close air support (fixed wing aircraft) which could be supplied by the Air Force, Navy or Marines.

Continued on page 12

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Communications on the Battlefield

continued

They may also decide to use offensive electronic warfare. This is where the Brigade may want to jam the enemy circuits instead of kill them.

The network between the battalion and brigade is known as the battalion operations fire net. The information is once again sent from one computer to another over the air digitally.

Say, for example, a decision was made to use 155 mm howitzers. The request would go to the battalion fire direction center (digitally). The center would take the mission and execute it. They would do the tactical fire control which means they would decide the best ammunition fired by which unit in what quantity to be effective.

From the battalion fire direction center the orders would be sent to the Paladin howitzers (again digitally). The platoon would fire the mission using the platoon fire net.

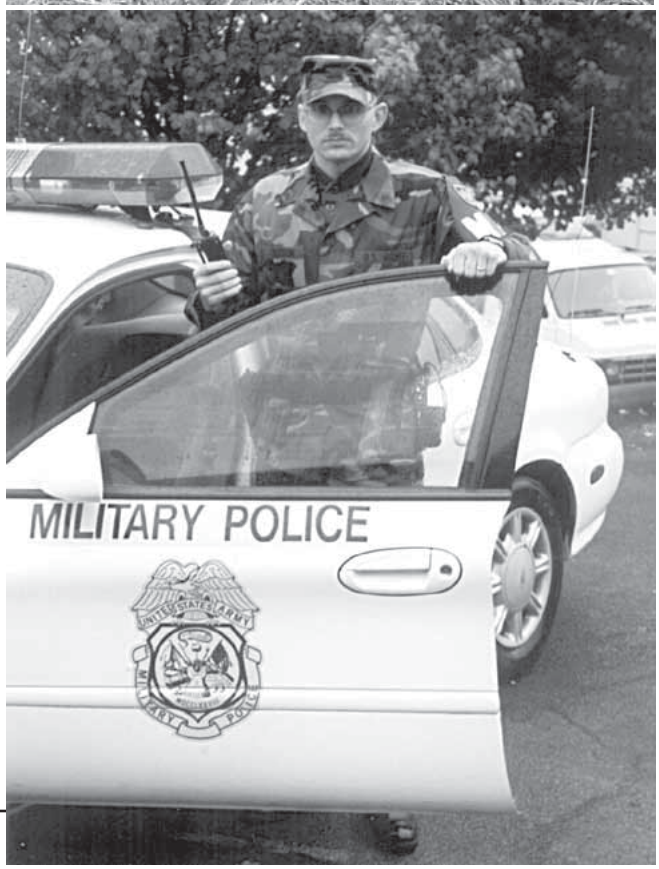
The battalion fire direction center's instructions to the platoon is normally conducted on the battalion fire direction nets which normally consists of three distinct networks. The platoon operations center has a platoon fire direction net which is conducted on one network using SINCGARS radios.

Once the mission has been plotted and ready to fire, a message will be sent back to the forward observer letting him know what to expect. If necessary the observer can make any needed adjustments. However, with the modern tools the observer has today, including laser range finders and GPS units, a mission can usually be fired for effect on the first volley.

While the battlefield tactical communications cannot be heard on our scanners operations on post like the Military Police, civil engineers and similar activities can be heard. In fact Major Di Renzo noted, "Our MP's are just like any other police department and operate similar radio equipment and in the analog mode. In fact at Fort Polk, Louisiana they are using an 800 MHz G. E. Ericsson trunked radio system."

So, you may not be able to hear "all" the communications from our military. However, what you can hear such as the MP's and base fire department should give you a good idea as to what is happening at the post. While it may be interesting to listen to fire missions, it is very understandable why we can't. In fact our future safety may depend upon what cannot be heard over military radios.





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The United States Capitol Police

This story was originally published in the September/October, 1998 issue of National Communications.

When Tony Hall first entered the House Chamber as a freshman Congressman, he had a great awe not only for that chamber but the building as well. That building – the U.S. Capitol building – has for two centuries been the center of operations for the United States government. Congressman Hall says, "Fifteen years later, I have practically the same feeling. There have been so many amazing people who have walked through these halls of Congress; so many distinguished people. Then to know I am part of the history of this country, I almost have to pinch myself and say 'Well, I am here so I want to make sure I do something that helps people.'" The Congressman has done a lot to help people by working on several committees to combat hunger in American and around the world.

Not only is Congressman Hall the Chairman of the Hunger Caucus, he is also a member of the Rules Committee. This powerful committee is charged with determining which bills will be considered by Congress and those others which will never see the light of day. The committee has to wade through over 30,000 bills and amendments annually, and reduce that number to approximately 200 for Congress to consider.

Mr. Hall leaves Washington to visit his district every other week. "You have to be well tuned to the desires of those you serve," he said. A Congressman will try to assist those who feel they have not been served by the government or the bureaucracy. This requires much of his time, not only in Washington, but in his home district where the Congressman must maintain another staff and office.



Capitol Police. What Congressman Hall probably did not realize the first time he set foot into the House Chamber, was that he now had a special protector in the form of the United States Capitol Police. The Capitol Police look after not only the U.S. Capitol building, but also the office buildings that house the Senators and Congressmen as well as the officials themselves. Even the remote offices in various districts throughout the U.S. come under the protection of the Capitol Police.

The United States Capitol Police

At the direction of President John Quincy Adams, the United States Capitol Police was established in 1828 by an act of Congress. Since that time, the Department has grown to over 1,250 uniformed and plain clothes members. These officers patrol approximately 40 blocks of the federal property that encompass the U.S. Capitol, House and Senate Office buildings, and the Capitol grounds.

The uniformed officers can be easily seen in and around the Capitol building. Included in the Uniformed Division are specialized officers such as Technician A. J. Turner and his K-9 Glenn. The Capitol Police K-9 division works much like similar units at local police departments but they also have some unusual duties involving the protection of members of Congress and other VIP's.

Duties of the U.S. Capitol Police officers include defending the Constitution, preserving the peace, protecting life and property, preventing crime, detecting and investigating criminal acts, arresting violators of the law, and enforcing traffic regulations. Yes, the Capitol Police also have to be traffic cops. In addition, the U.S. Capitol Police furnish personal protection to Members of Congress, Officers of Congress, or their family members in any area of the United States.

The Capitol, House, Senate, and Patrol Divisions are responsible for providing uniformed officers to police the streets, parks, and buildings of the Capitol complex. This includes major thoroughfares and requires officers to enforce all traffic regulations and investigate motor vehicle accidents as well as uncover and deter criminal activity. Patrols are conducted by foot, mountain bicycle, motorcycle, unmarked cruiser and marked scout cars. There are also undercover street tactical units.

The Containment and Emergency Responce Team (CERT) was organized to provide a unit equipped to handle an armed assault upon the Congress. CERT is charged with the duty of performing tactical operations during hostage/barricade situations within the Capitol complex requiring the use of special weapons and tactics. These guys are the U.S. Capitol Police SWAT Team. In addition, they assist the Drug Enforcement Unit and the Criminal Investigations Division in serving arrest or search warrants and provide the Protective Services with additional support during large scale protective operations.

Continued on page 17

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The United States Capitol Police

The Hostage Negotiation Unit responds in the case of a hostage/barricade incident. This unit attempts to defuse the situation through direct dialogue.

In order to counter the threat of bombings, the U.S. Capitol Police has a highly trained K-9 Explosive Detection Section. Technician A. J. Turner and his K-9 assistant Glenn are members of this section. Both Technician Turner and Glenn are trained to detect a multitude of explosives. In addition, Turner and Glenn perform standard law enforcement duties.

When a suspicious item is located within the Capitol complex, members of the Hazardous Devices Unit are called. This unit will examine and render safe or dispose of all suspicious items that pose a potential threat to life and property. The unit also conducts advance sweeps for visiting dignitaries, congressional delegations, and VIP's including the President.

Since the East and West fronts of the Capitol are difficult areas to protect, the Capitol Police has developed a First Responder Unit. Demonstrations, large crowds, suspicious packages, and the screening of vehicles and deliveries are of concern to these officers, who are trained to provide a high degree of protection and security. They will respond to the area of any disturbance inside or outside the Capitol. These are the officers who man the barricades at the north and south entrances of the capitol plaza.

Over the years, the Capitol complex has been the site of many large demonstrations. To handle such incidents, a select group of officers was chosen to form the Civil Disturbance Unit. These officers are trained to control large groups of people during civil disobedience and mass arrest situations.

Another unit, the Threat Assessment Unit, conducts inquiries into all threats against Members of Congress and their families and staffs. The officers will investigate all telephonic, written, and verbal threats in conjunction with the FBI. If the threat is determined to be of such a serious nature that additional security is required, members of the Protective Operations Section will provide 24 hour protective services to the Members anywhere in the U.S.

In order to provide increased protection to Members of Congress and monitor the actions of visitors in the House and Senate public galleries, plain clothes officers,



members of the Gallery Security Section, are placed at strategic locations around each chamber.

The detectives of the Criminal Investigations Division conduct inquiries into all criminal acts committed within the Capitol complex. Another division, the Intelligence Section, is responsible for collecting, processing, and disseminating information on criminal activities, subversive groups, terrorism, and civil disorders. Officers from this section will maintain close liaison with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Finally, the Special Events Section is responsible for coordinating a wide variety of activities within the Capitol complex to include dignitary visits, demonstrations, receptions, band concerts, choral performances, and VIP arrivals.

The United States Capitol Police is a sophisticated Federal policing agency with the unique responsibility of not only protecting the lives of VIP's but protecting some of the most cherished property in the country. ●

The Panama Canal

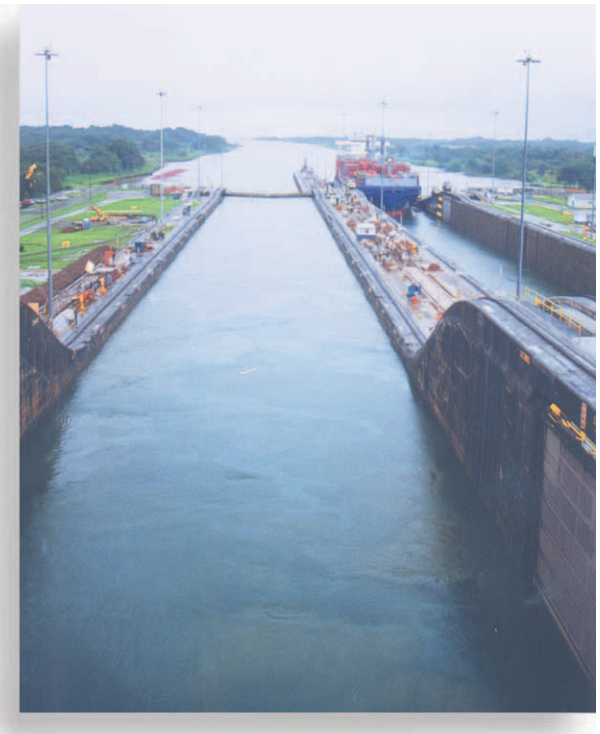
This story originally was printed in the March/April, 2000 issue of National Communications.



The Panama Canal became Panama's on Friday December 31 ending nearly a century of U.S. presence in the area. The canal which was inaugurated in 1914 was actually begun by the French in the late 1800's. However disease and the slow going made them give up the goal of a French canal.

However, the canal "divided Panama into two separate territories and gave the United States a level of sovereignty reminiscent of a colonial era more appropriate to the 19th century than the 20th", according to Louis Caldera, secretary of the Army and head of the U.S. delegation formalizing the transfer.

The canal had originally been operated under the Panama Canal Commission, a U.S. government agency and on December 31st it became the Panama Canal Authority, an autonomous corporation with its own budget that will administer the canal.

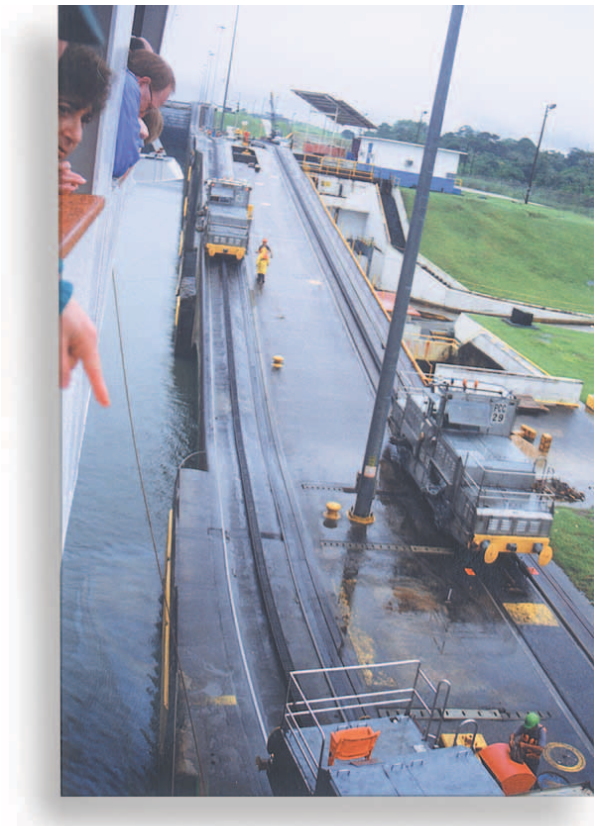


Nearly 1400 ships pass through every year bringing in more than $600 million in tolls. A special government agency handling the return of the canal areas now has more than $1.5 billion in pledged investments in tourist and development projects in the former military bases.

Most people think of the Panama Canal as running on an east to west route but actually it goes from northwest to southeast. With its unique location at the narrowest point between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans it has had a far reaching effect on world economic and commercial developments throughout most of this century. By providing a short, relatively inexpensive passageway between these two great bodies of water, the Canal has influenced world trade patterns, spurred growth in developed countries, and has been a primary impetus for economic expansion in many remote areas of the world. For example a vessel laden with coal sailing from the east coast of the United States to Japan with the Panama Canal saves about 3,000 miles verses the shortest alternative all-water route, and for a vessel laden

The Panama Canal

continued



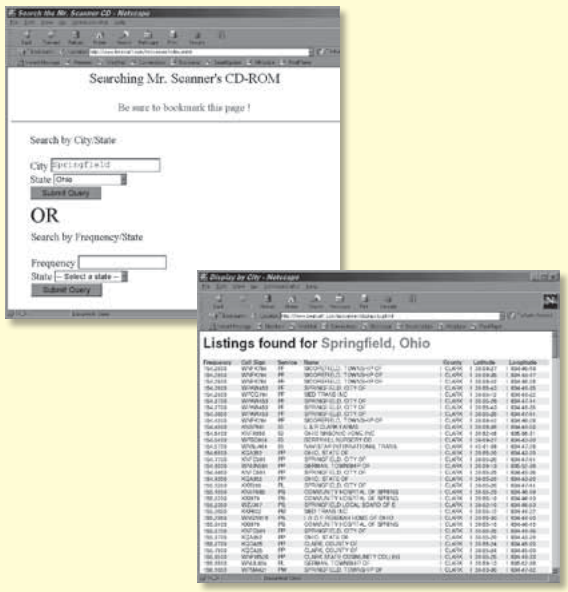
with bananas sailing from Ecuador to Europe the distance is about 5,000 miles.

Ships approaching from the Caribbean Sea will check in with a radio operator (156.650 MHz) at Christobal. Ships need to make "reservations" to enter the canal and many times depending on traffic and weather are assigned areas outside the breakwater to anchor until it is their time to pass into the canal and locks.

The first set of locks is at Gutan. Here there are three separate locks which will raise the ship a total of 75 feet? From there it will pass into Gutan lake and on westward through the remaining locks of the Canal. Along the route one can see small train engines that appear to be pulling the ship through the locks, but actually their main function is to keep the ship in the center of the locks. Ninety percent of the power is provided by the ship's engines. The Canal Authority provides a pilot to the ship to aid in the trip through the locks and canal. After all the locks are only 110 feet wide. The total length from shore line to shore line is 40.27 miles and the length from deep water to deep water is 50.72 miles.

Continued on page 20

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The Panama Canal

continued

The canal operates completely on a gravity system. There are no pumps for the locks. At the Gutan locks for example water is pulled from Gutan Lake and then is flushed out to the Atlantic Ocean. Because of its location in the middle of a rain forest, there is not a problem in keeping the lake full and the locks operating.



As an interesting side note, when the French were working on the Canal the land was actually a part of Columbia. When the United States became interested they were not happy with the Columbian terms and openly supported the Panamanian revolution and were the first country to recognize Panama as an independent nation. Once that was accomplished the Americans then dealt with the new Panamanian government. Some years later the United States Government issued an apology and the payment of several millions of dollars to Columbia. However, the deed was done, a new country formed and a Canal under American control was built.

President of Panama Mireys Moscoso said that the transfer "imposes challenges and obligations for ourselves and future generations" and urged that the canal be treated as a "state matter, free of all passion and political interest."



For one group of American citizens the transfer ended a way of life. Known an Zonians these are Americans born and raised in the U.S. enclave known as the Canal Zone. As one resident put it "It is very sad. I have two sons born and raised here, and this will always be their home."

Scanning the Cristobal area and the Gutan Locks area will provide a lot of frequencies. First of all check out the marine radio channels most of the traffic is in English including the instructions to ships awaiting entry into the locks. Once you leave the marine band expect to hear most of the conversations in Spanish. There are several Motorola trunked radio systems in the area as well, so if you have a TrunkTracker be sure to try out the trunking features. You will find that using a scanner around any waterway be it the Panama Canal, locks on the Great Lakes or on a beach will provide a great deal of interesting listening.

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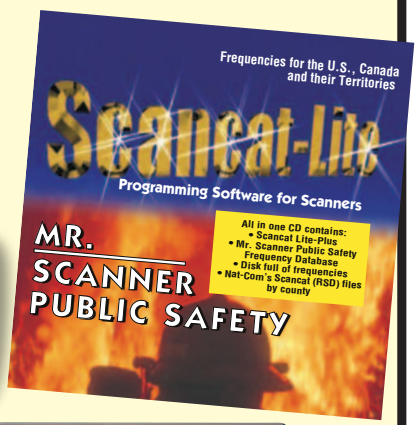
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The Magic behind the Magic



This story was originally published in the September/October, 1994 issue of National Scanning Report.

It's hard to believe that job training requirements for a city manager would include dressing up as a cartoon character and strolling around an amusement park for several months. But that's just what training requires for all executives at Disney World in Florida. One such exec is Tom Moses, manager for the Reedy Creek Improvement District, the agency which provides safety services for Disney World.

Although Disney spokesman would rather not comment on the safety services provided to the approximately 150,000 daily visitors to the park, they do exist. One Disney spokesman said, "We want to concentrate on the rides and fun of the park, and do not wish to comment on other services. "Of course, it's understandable that promotion personnel want to push the fun aspects of being at Disney World and not the safety net they have laid out in case of accidents.



Officially, Tom Moses heads up the Department of Emergency Services for Reedy Creek Improvement District. The District covers all property owned by Disney World in central Florida. It is an official governmental agency under Florida law as well. The District's emergency services include three fire stations with pumpers, aerial ladder trucks, a woods truck (a small vehicle used for fighting woods fires in remote areas of the property), rescue vehicle and eight ambulances. All in all, Disney has 135 firefighters and EMS personnel with advanced life support training on its Reedy Creek roster.

Reedy Creek Improvement District does not have a police department, but the Disney operation does employ a security force. If additional help is needed, they can get assistance from the Orange County Sheriff who has a sub-station on the grounds.

The District has its own building permit department which issues permits and conducts inspections. "We have some of the toughest building codes in the nation, " Moses said. "We mandate that we have a 100% protected community." This not only includes such things as smoke detectors and sprinklers in the 16,000 plus hotel rooms on the property, but the designing of safety precautions on rides.

An example of such safety engineering can be seen in the "Space Mountain" ride. First of all, the ride has smoke and heat detectors throughout. There are roll back devices on the track. These devices would allow the cars to roll back to a point where the passengers could get off the ride in safety. There are two backup systems for lighting. Additionally, Station #3 is right behind the Magic Kingdom -- less than two minutes away.

Continued on page 24

The Magic behind the Magic

continued





Throughout the park and other property owned by Disney, there is a 911 telephone system. In fact, Disney had the first 911 telephone system in Florida. The Disney 911 system rings directly into the Reedy Creek Improvement District's new communications center at Station #1.

The com center boasts state of the art necessities for any radio dispatching operation. An intricate computer system will give dispatchers directions on how to reach any pull box or sprinkler system that has been activated. This information can then be passed on to responding personnel. Reedy Creek is also using a new 800 MHz trunked radio system. Besides these channels, they have radio links to other law enforcement, fire and medical services.

Station #1 is Reedy Creek's newest operation. A large bay houses several firefighting vehicles including an aerial ladder truck, EMS unit and a woods truck. There are facilities for the male and female firefighters who work a "24 hour on and 48 hour off" shift. There is a plush area for the firefighters to watch TV, a workout room complete with weight lifting equipment, a small kitchen where they can cook up a grand meal, and of course, the bunk area. Station #1 personnel cover Epcot Center, the Studio Tour, a shopping village and several hotels.

There I no Fire Chief, so Tom assumes that position as well. He also pointed out that the Reedy Creek Improvement District covers 44 square miles (or 30,000 acres), which includes over 20 million square feet of floor space. In order to keep fire fighters well trained on the interior of rides or hotels, much of their training in these areas is performed after midnight.

Reedy Creek Improvement District is an "out of sight" governmental agency. They provide the protection that most tourists never see. In fact, if there is an emergency at one of the parks, the equipment will respond behind the scenes. If someone becomes ill and needs to be removed by ambulance, you will not see an EMS unit running down the middle of Main Street. Instead, the unit will be just behind the scenes and the person removed via the back set to a hospital that is just six miles north of the park.

When Tom Moses was hired by Roy Disney 25 years ago, one of his first jobs was to go to Disneyland in California and wear a "Dumbo" costume. "All executive staff have to play within a costume," Tom said, "You really see a whole new perspective when looking at the public behind the eyes of a character." Although Tom does not wear a costume any longer, he still likes to spend time in the parks and mingle with the folks having fun. "I just like to sand in line with others to get on a ride," he said. "Even after 25 years it is still quite a magical place."

Not only is there a type of magic performed at the Magic Kingdom, Epcot or the Studio Tour, there is some real magic -- a life saving type -- performed behind the scenes with the personnel and equipment of the reedy Creek Improvement District.

Scanning the Front Line





This story was originally printed in National Scanning Report's September/October, 1992 issue. This is a good inside look into what a typical day is like for the U.S. Border Patrol. Since this article is now 20 years old, it is quite likely that the frequency scheme used back in 1992 has changed.

The United States Border Patrol is a policing agency that has the distinction and responsibility of patrolling the borders of the United States. Virtually thousands of miles are patrolled by agents along the borders with Canada and Mexico. Nowhere is their work more exhaustive than in the San Diego district where agents encounter hundreds to thousands of illegal immigrants as well as drug dealers and bandits.

National Scanning Report recently had the opportunity to ride along with agent Richard "Rich" Norton. Rich is a thirteen year veteran of the Border Patrol and has spent the majority of his time along the U.S. – Mexico border.

The San Diego sector consists of three offices that conduct their operations directly on the border. The Border Patrol has jurisdiction within 25 miles of the international border, but it is within a few miles of the border between San Diego and Tijuana that the majority of the action occurs.

One area of concern for Border Patrol agents is an area known as Smugglers Canyon. The canyon is a natural cover area for those going from Mexico to the U.S. illegally. It is also an area that the bandits (who live in Mexico but work both sides of the border) operate. The bandits will prey upon the illegals, many times injuring or killing them for whatever possessions they have brought along.

This area has so much activity that the San Diego Police Department has organized a Border Crime Intervention Unit. The officers, whose salaries are paid for by the citizens of San Diego, have the specific job of protecting the illegal aliens from the bandits.

On the evening NSR was touring the border area, we had the opportunity to speak with Sergeant Rick Adams of the San Diego Police Department. Rick relays the time when a bandit confronted his patrol with what appeared to be a shotgun. The bandit had the intention of robbing the officers, think they were "illegals". He lowered his shotgun (which later turned out to be a cattle prod designed to look like a shotgun) at the officers and demanded their possessions. "It was the last mistake he ever made," says Sergeant Adams "as he was shot and killed by one of the officers of the team."

Shooting incidents occurring along the border, while

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Scanning the Front Line
continued

not an everyday occurrence, do happen often enough to be etched into the Border Patrol agents' memories. Agent Norton remembers another time when a shooting occurred where the bullet went through the fence and hit a child in Mexico. And still there was another shooting in which an officer was being stoned by the illegals and was forced to shoot back in self-defense. Rich mentioned that there are three times that an agent is permitted to use deadly force of any kind. The officer has to fear for his life, the life of a fellow officer or of an innocent third party.

Many times those causing problems for the Border Patrol simply slip back over the border into Mexico. The agent's authority ends at the border and they are very careful not to cross the border at any time. Oftentimes it is hard to tell just exactly where the border is. For example, the border crosses the Tia Juana River and while the fence is quite easily seen on both sides of the river, it does not exist in the middle. "There is a storm drain on the north side that we know is in the U.S., going beyond that is a grey area," according to Rich.

If a chase starts on the U.S. side, and the suspect flees to Mexico, the Border Patrol agents can contact the Tijuana Police or a special Mexican para-military group known as "Beta Team". When they know the Tijuana Police are coming on the Mexican side, they will come back to the U.S. so we can pick them up. "You've got to remember that the fence is not only the border, but also the end of civil rights as we know them," says Rich.

The agents don't chase down everyone that cross the border illegally says Rich. "There is a flat area that belongs to an aggregate company, and the kids cross over to play baseball or football. In the evening they go home, so they're not a problem to us."

The agents are concerned with those entering illegally with the intention of staying. Also, they're looking out for smugglers of drugs and other illegal substances.

The Border Patrol station in San Ysidro looks very much like a mini military compound. There are separate buildings for communications, maintenance and other support facilities. There is also a detention facility. It is in this facility where illegals are kept until return to Mexico. For the most part, aliens waive their right to a hearing and return voluntarily. If they do request a hearing, it may be months before it happens and they will stay detained until the hearing." They would rather take their chances and try again," says Rich. In fact, it is not unusual for an officer to arrest the same person that he arrested earlier on his shift.

As far as communications go, each station has its own operating frequency and Border Patrol vehicles have the ability to monitor 14 channels. The Brownfield station operates on 162.900 MHz, Chula Vista uses 163.700 MHz and Imperial Beach operates on 163.775 MHz. All operate under the call sign KAK 827 and use simplex mode. If a great range is needed the repeater pair of 162.825/163.625 MH *KAK 820) is used.

The officers also carry a hand-held radio either Mo-





Scanning the Front Line
continued

torola or King. Their means of transportation can range from helicopter to Yamaha all terrain vehicles to Ford Broncos or bicycles and horses. Other items issued are shotguns, 357 magnum revolvers, night vision scopes and riot helmets.

The Border Patrol can provide interesting listening approximately 50 miles on either side of the international border. The next time you have the opportunity, tune in the men and women of America's front line.







CLOSING COMMENTS



By: Norm Schrein, KA8PGJ

I recently had an opportunity to go to The Antiques Road Show. It was an great experience and it was also very interesting to see what kind of items people brought. It was a fine example of how things used to be. There was a lot of art work, furniture, and all sorts of odds and ends. Compared to items we use today, it was quite a contrast.



Norm & Wes Cowen at Antiques Roadshow - Cincinnati 07-21-12

There was a time when we had to put ice in the refrigerator, use gas lights, feed the horse and many similar tasks. Today we can call around the world using various applications on our phones and the call is free. We no longer have encyclopedia books, although the encyclopedia is still out there but it is on-line. We have traded in the family horse for the family car.

Our technology is constantly changing. We have landed men on the moon and vehicles on Mars. We have evolved from sitting around a camp fire or in the living room telling stories or reading books to simply watching things on TV or the computer. Even some of our newer inventions like video tape and audio tapes have been replaced. The technology we listen to our on our scanners has changed over the years too. Gone are the old tube operated two-way radios that Andy and Barney used in Mayberry. They have replaced by computer chips and now the radios can be field programmed to a wide assortment of frequencies.

Our scanners have changed too. Now we have radios that will work on most types of trunked radio systems --- something that was not possible 30 years ago. We can many times update the firmware (now there is a new word) in our scanners to match some of the changes we see happening in the two-way radio world. Things like re-banding and narrowbanding. As, you see if we want to keep current in our electronic hobby we have to keep up with the changes that the new technologies bring.

When I first started listening to public safety services I had an old tunable radio -- something similar to the old car radios. There was not much selectivity and I might hear two or three stations on the same setting. At the time, this radio was a great advancement. Then came the crystal radios. They did not scan, but you could set the radio up to hear one channel at a time. I still have my old Sonar receiver. Then Al Lovell came up with a radio that could scan through the various channels. Soon the radios could be programmed by hand and crystals were a thing of the past.

If you have been in this hobby for a while, all that I am telling you is not new, but if you have just recently become a scanner listener, you might be surprised of the evolvement of scanner radios.

Another thing that happened in years past was that there were a lot of scanners sold. At one time it was estimated that 7 per-cent of US households had a scanner. Today, scanners are not being sold in the great numbers of yesteryear. Although considered to be a novelty back in the day, they are even more so now.

Our magazine has been published for over 20 years now and of course there have been changes there too. Computers have certainly made the organizing of the magazine a lot easier. In the beginning we had to work with cameras and film that

needed to be developed. Now, of course, it is simply taking a photo with a digital camera and we are good to go. Authors had to use the US Postal service to get their articles to us and many times they had to be retyped from the original manuscript. Again, computers have made that task much easier.

So, this issue, we are taking a break from today's issues and instead look at scanning the way it was a few years ago. The articles we have placed in this issue span from about 1991 to 1998. Although times have changed, the basic topics covered in these articles have not changed.

I have been asked many times to re-produce some of the articles from days gone by. So in this issue, that is what we will be doing. We will take a journey back in time and remember some of the people, places and things that helped make National Communications magazine great.

We will also be taking advantage of today's technology and slowly be placing all the back issues of National Communications (formeraly National Scanning Report) on line. All you will need is the same user name and password that you use to get to our on-line frequencies or to see the current issue. This will serve several purposes. One is to give you access to the vast wealth of information we have been able to compile over the past years right at your finger tips on your computer. The other is for our readers who do not have a computer. This will be an opportunity for you to consider getting one and getting even more out of your subscription.

I would like to point out that many libraries now have computers with internet access for their patrons and you can easily view the extra Nat-Com content in that way. Also, computers are not as expensive as they used to be. There is also a wide range of used computers available from independent dealers.

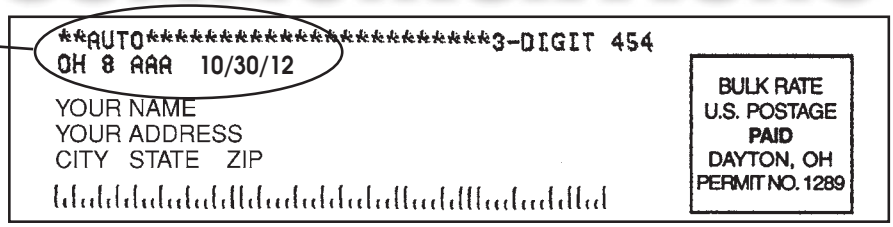
So, it is time to lead the horse to the field and start up the car. Probably today it should be a hybrid. It is with that thought in mind that we can improve what we are doing today with the technology that is available to us.

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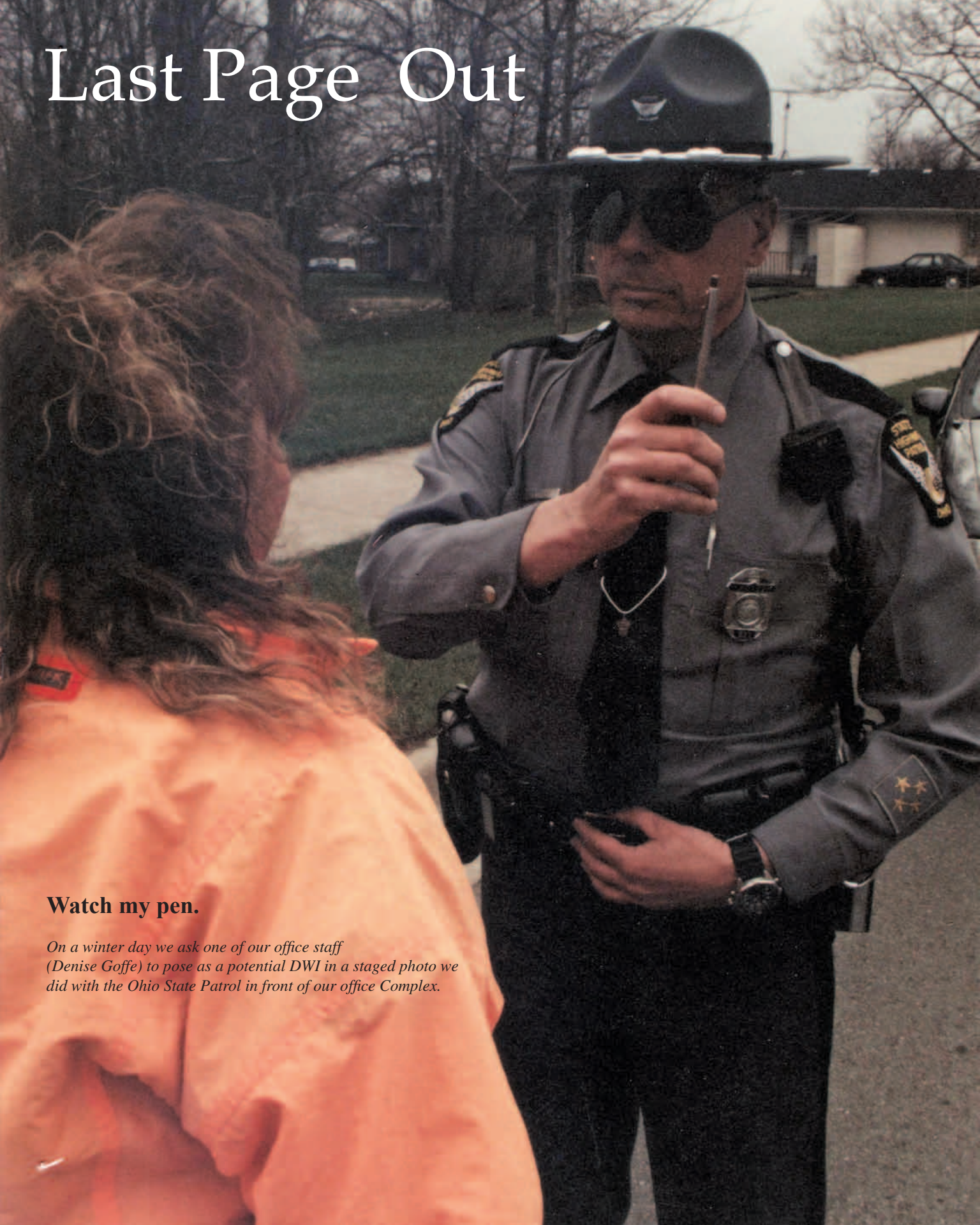
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Last Page Out



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