

COMPLIANCE AND FORCE POSTS (chronological, most recent first)

(click [here](#) for a .pdf with the full collection)

Point of View Do scholars really “get” the craft of policing?

“Distraction Strike”? Angry Punch? Both? When cops get rattled, the distinction may ring hollow

Bringing a Gun to a Knife Fight Cops carry guns. Some citizens flaunt knives. Are poor outcomes inevitable?

Are Civilians Too Easy on the Police? (II) Exonerated of murder, but not yet done

Confirmation Bias can be Lethal Why did a “routine” traffic stop cost a Philadelphia man’s life?

What Cops Face America’s violent atmosphere can distort officer decisions

San Antonio Blues Poverty – and what it brings – can impair the quality of policing

Piling On Swarming unruly citizens and pressing them to the ground invites disaster

When Worlds Collide Wary cops, uncompliant citizens and troubled communities

On the One Hand...But on the Other... California’s lethal force laws devolve into a legal Neverland

Blows to the Head Were Never O.K. Cameras are everywhere, yet an abhorrent practice continues

What Were They Thinking? (II) Examining six recent (and notorious) uses of force

What Were They Thinking? And Why? (I) Violent communities frighten their inhabitants. And their cops.

Tenacity is Great - Until it’s Not An aggressive citizen, a dogged cop, and a tragic outcome

Who’s in Charge? An eager cop rushes in and opens fire. He kills the suspect. And an innocent child.

Is the “Cure” Worse Than the “Disease”? Dem’s push the “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.” Its consequences could be profound.

Want Happy Endings? Don’t Chase Pursuits can lead to tragedy. Options are often available.

White on Black Should Black citizens fear White cops?

Black on Black Are Black citizens better off with Black cops?

“SWAT” is a Verb Officers join specialized teams for a reason

Violent and Vulnerable Some combative citizens may be at heightened risk of death

Is it Ever OK to Shoot Someone in the Back? (Part II) In Atlanta, a “routine” encounter turns lethal. Instantly, the deplorable outcome is attributed to race.

Fair But Firm Gaining voluntary compliance is the sine qua non of everyday policing. Indeed, of everyday life.

When Must Cops Shoot? (II) “An ounce of prevention...” (Ben Franklin, 1736) (x-ref from ST)

When Must Cops Shoot? (I) Four notorious incidents; four dead citizens. What did officers face? (x-ref from ST)

A Workplace Without Pity Doing right by the public might mean doing wrong to the cop

Can You Enforce Without Force? Decriminalizing illegal immigration would have serious consequences (x-ref from Immigration)

Informed and Lethal Confirmation bias, on steroids

A Not-So-Magnificent Obsession Lapses in policing lead to chronic rulemaking. Does it hit the mark?

Is it Ever OK to Shoot Someone in the Back? Laws, policies and politics clash with the messiness of policing

There’s No “Pretending” a Gun Sometimes split-second decisions are right, even when they’re wrong

A Reason? Or Just an Excuse? Figuring out why officers kill persons “armed” with a cell phone

Three (In?)explicable Shootings Grievous police blunders keep costing citizen lives. Why?

Are Civilians Too Easy on the Police? When attempts are made to sanction cops, citizens often get in the way

An Illusory Consensus II Good intentions don’t always translate into good policy

An Illusory “Consensus” America’s police leaders agree on the use of force. Or do they?

Is it Always About Race? Unruly citizens and streets brimming with guns make risk-tolerance a very hard sell

Good Guy/Bad Guy/Black Guy (Part II) Aggressive crime-fighting strategies can exact an unintended toll

Good Guy/Bad Guy/Black Guy (Part I) Do cops use race to decide who poses a threat?

More Rules, Less Force? PERF promotes written guidelines to reduce the use of force. Cops aren’t happy.

Working Scared Fearful, ill-trained and poorly supervised cops are tragedies waiting to happen

De-escalation: Cure, Buzzword or a Bit of Both? As bad shootings dominate the headlines, cops and politicians scramble for answers

Does Race Matter? (Part II) The Philadelphia story, and its implications for urban policing

Does Race Matter? (Part I) Police killings of black persons roil the nation

Lessons of Ferguson When cops and aggressive citizens tangle, lethal results often follow

A Very Hot Summer Five incidents reignite concerns about police use of force

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (L.A. Edition) Officer missteps carry big price tags

Three Perfect Storms Scared cops and unruly young men prove a lethal combination

A Dead Marine, and a lot of Questions Failure to properly contain a situation can leave deadly force as the only option

Making Sausage Delivering a blow looks nasty, but it can be vastly preferable to the alternatives

Policing is a Contact Sport (Part II) Tasers are useful. But they're not risk-free, and over-reliance is a problem.

Policing is a Contact Sport (Part I) How did the Taser's reputation reach such a low point?

Homeless, Mentally Ill, Dead Officers may have beat a troubled man to death. But we all share in the blame.

First, Do No Harm Just how intrusive should patrol be?

Sometimes a Drunk With a Knife is Just That Feel-good rhetoric can't substitute for deadly-force alternatives and frequent training

Every Cop Needs a Taser There must be a way for three officers to handle a drunk with a knife short of killing him

Dancing With Hooligans For street cops every day's a reality show. And that reality is often unpleasant.

Is It When to Chase? Or If? Ten days and twenty-five hundred miles apart, two pursuits end in tragedy

Making Time Split-second decisions can end in tragedy

It's Now L.A.'s Problem A cop's tragic fumble turns into a cause célèbre. What will happen if he's acquitted?

The Chase is On Are foot pursuits prone to result in bad shootings?

Kicking a Suspect When He's Down There may be an explanation for kicking a compliant suspect in the head, but there's no excuse

Good Cop / Bad Cop NYPD's handling of a student protest may have missed its mark

To Err is Human, to Prevent is Divine Admitting that cops make mistakes can prevent tragedies

Tasering a Youngster is Wrong, Except When it's Not Should police have zapped a violent 12-year old?

Oakland BART Shooting: A Tragedy, Yes -- But is it Murder? It's not the first time that a cop accidentally drew a gun

Is it Too Easy to Zap? An invaluable tool is threatened by abuse

When Cops Kill (Part II) Why are some officers repetitively involved in questionable shootings?

When Cops Kill Individual differences are key to understanding why some cops shoot

Assisted suicide is not police work! Less-than-lethal weapons can keep cops from becoming executioners