



## THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article August, 2022

You can't do it on your own.

We all know that officer who does not like to rely on others. He likes to do it himself. My kids are the same way. "I do it myself!"

He uses his MDC instead of dispatch for everything. He doesn't ever call a teammate for help or advice. He was raised to believe he can do it on his own and depending on others shows weakness. He doesn't call out on scenes because he doesn't want to take airtime or bother everyone else.

### RADIO

-I am all about being a minimalist when it comes to airtime, however proper use of airtime is paramount to every aspect of our job, most importantly, going home. While we don't know the intimate details of the recent passing of our brother in blue Deputy Sheriff Ned Byrd of North Carolina, we do know from his ODMP story that he got out of his vehicle without calling out and was found two hours later. By no stretch are we here to judge him and we have no idea if he operated like that normally, or if this time he had to exit so fast there was no real choice. But this piece of the story was important enough to his agency to include it on ODMP and we should honor his passing by learning from the event.

## MDC

-MDCs are tools of convenience. As a new generation of computer reliant officers joins the ranks, they are becoming more of a crutch and less of a convenience. Every officer should know how to work a shift without an MDC and be comfortable doing so. When you are in contact with anyone outside of the "normal" law bidding population your eyes should be on the subjects you're with, and dispatch should be mining information for you. I hear lots of officers say that when the hair on their neck stands, they won't use the MDC. I would argue why wait till then? I promise you of the 42 officers we have lost to gunfire this year, and the endless thousands we've lost over time, many of them never had the neck hair reaction.

## WORKING ALONE

-Police love to work alone patrolling and looking for something to get into, but once you've found it, your partners should come flooding in to help. If you've ever been deep sea fishing you know that every person is doing their own thing, trying their own methods, looking for that enormous catch. But when someone hooks the Loch Ness Monster, it's all hands on deck. Everyone comes over to help. One person anchors the reeler, one person grabs a club, one grabs a net. Another oversees the operation and makes sure each job is covered, and someone still has to steer the boat. Policing is far more complex than fishing. Utilize your teammates at every opportunity to give you the advantage, make you a better officer, and spread the newfound knowledge that comes from every contact with as many officers as possible. Lessons can be learned even in benign events where everything went right, and allowing your co-workers that opportunity to be there and assist you may save their life on a contact down the road, and may have save yours today.

A well functioning police agency is essentially out of sight to it's citizenry until needed, and then from the woodwork appears a sea of patrol cars to re-establish peace and order. Once order is returned, the wave of blue subsides once again. I am certainly not advocating for blue bystanders. We don't need cops without assignments standing around, but we also don't need to do it ourselves.

Deputy Byrd had one more shift than trips home. Perhaps because of his passing there are are many more officers whose names we will never have to learn.

In honor of Deputy Ned Byrd EOW 8-11-22

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