



## THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

**Newsletter article September, 2018**

How often do we see in-custody subjects continue to cause us problems? Yet we continue to leave them in the back of our cars unattended while we search theirs. Bracelets do not equal complete safety.

If you read July's article, you knew this was going to be my talking point this month. As it turns out I just experienced this issue last week. Granted, I was not about to leave this subject unattended. Not with my article so fresh on my mind. My prayer is that with each article you read, maybe you can say the same.

I rolled up on a single vehicle crash. Down went the kickstand, I swung my leg over the bike and pulled the helmet off. I was actually a little thankful for the proactive crash report, as it gave me a chance to take off my helmet and get some breeze on my sweat saturated hair. But moments later, while the DWHUA driver was sobbing and explaining to me how she wasn't to blame for driving off the road entirely on her own, the radio keyed... "Step it up!" un-key.... silence.... "Code three!" un-key....

"Ma'am.... Ma'am.... Ma'am please, I have to go now." I was back on the bike and throttle down in the direction of my best guess where the officer needing assistance was. His next traffic identified his location as inside a gas station, but he used the name the gas station became last week, instead of the name we all know.

When I arrived, two officers had the subject proned with knees in his back and bracelets securing his hands, but the fight was still very much on. Between the three of us we are able to move him to his side safely to avoid asphyxiation, but it wasn't long before the flailing and screaming and the need to restrain him continued.

He was one of those guys that we could not fold in half to insert in the car, and ultimately got liquid restraints and transported by ambulance. However, today we are talking about perceived compliance followed by resistance.

The responsibility for a restrained party falls squarely on the cover. I'm talking about when the arresting officer is searching a car for example. Your job is to watch the suspect while the primary officer conducts an investigation. I know we all want to search the car, but bad things happen when two sap pockets are hanging out the doors of a suspect's car, and four eyes are under the front seats. Not to mention, if you find something, you now have to leave the street to book it and do a supp. Your excitement to dig has just jeopardized you and your partner's safety, and affected the street coverage for potentially the rest of the shift. good job.

Cover officers: Before the arrest, you watch the entire world while the investigator watches Mr. Bad Guy. After the arrest, you watch the entire world, plus

Mr. BG who is stuffed in the car. I like to stand at the back left taillight and turn the spotlight in on the suspect through the windshield. This way you are assured no stolen police cruisers or broken rear windows. No need for "damage control" when you do your job right the first time.

This, of course, is great for those areas where you have a cover, but I know many of you work alone. God bless you. In the event that you are the Lone Ranger, utilize the same spotlight technique and do not forget to look up at the suspect every 30 seconds. Most importantly, if he can't see you through the spotlight, it may just be the deterrent he needs to not make poor decisions.

I know this article got a bit specific on tactics... Sometimes we need to share ideas and refresh our thinking. Officer safety is an art. The more you practice it, the better you become and the more little tricks you develop. Use what works for you, and if you don't feel comfortable, consider alternative methods to secure your safety, but never leave a suspect unattended just because they are tied up and caged. We certainly have more than enough examples of bracelets not equaling complete safety.