



# Winter

# The BACKUP Newsletter

The Official Publication of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association



Nine Lives Lost in Horrific Helicopter Crash...A First Responder's Viewpoint



CA Reserve Officer Serves on the SWAT Team



LAPD Reserve Officer Saves Veteran's Life



2020 CRPOA Awards Announcement and Criteria

## WINTER 2020

### Welcome to the Quarterly Newsletter of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association



## ARPOC 2020!

### August 12, 2020 through August 15, 2020

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## ARPOC 2020 at Lake Tahoe!

You've been asking for it and we're doing it! Our 43rd Annual Reserve Peace Officer Conference will be held at what our survey told us was your top destination, the South Lake Tahoe area. And, we're holding it at the fabulous MontBleu Resort in Stateline, Nevada.

**Prices:** They're terrific! \$69 plus tax for Tuesday night, \$89 per night plus tax for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night. That's single/double-occupancy and includes Wi-Fi and parking. (Saturday night is available but, since there's a concert in town, it's a little pricey: \$249 plus tax!).

**Classes:** We're working on them now and hope to be releasing the list and schedule by March 31st. We have several new classes in the works plus some others that you've asked for us to bring back.

**Reserve Coordinator Courses:** You bet! We have a cooperating agreement with a large hotel located on the California side of the line to hold our two classes eligible for POST Plan IV reimbursement. The classroom will be in California and we'll arrange for several sleeping rooms for those full-time officers/deputies who must stay in California to get the reimbursement.

**Plenty to do:** Lake Tahoe in the summertime features warm weather in the daytime and early evening with recreational activities for the family and plenty of great restaurants and adult diversions in the evening.

**How do we get there?** If you're flying into Reno it's a short shuttle bus ride for about \$53 round trip. From northern California it's a pleasant and scenic drive along Hwy 50 from the Sacramento area or via Hwy 80 and 89 south from Truckee.

**When can we book our rooms? Now!** Just click here [MontBleu Reservations](#) and type in the group code **STCRPOA**. Or, if you prefer to call, use this number: 1-800-648-3353. Book your room now and then all you'll have to do next month is choose your classes and register!

**Is it a nice hotel? It sure is!** And we're featuring some photos of the MontBleu in this issue. We're very excited to finally be presenting a conference in South Lake Tahoe. We hope you're excited too. More info to follow soon!



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

By Mike Voorhees

## LIKE YOU WERE NEVER THERE!

This past year we've had some very troubling reports of some of our members having served many years, in two cases more than 20 years, only to learn at retirement that their departments lost part or all of their personnel files, leaving no proof of completion of that department's academy or their appointment as a peace officer. Worse yet, the departments had never sent a notice of appointment to POST!

It seems incredible that such a thing could happen, but it has and with horrible results. In some cases, retiring officers have been denied a CCW-endorsed retired ID card because the department can't attest to the fact that the person was ever qualified to be a peace officer.

Clearly they served for more than 2 decades, made arrests, searched prisoners and drove Code 3 who knows how many times. In other cases, an officer was demoted a Level by his department because it had no training records to show that the officer had ever attended the required academy classes for the Level to which he was originally appointed. And it was the department's own academy!

These sorry incidents point out the need to be proactive and verify what is in your file and what records POST shows for you. If the information is never entered into POST EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) by your appointing department, there's no way that POST can attest that you completed the full or certain modules of the academy or other CPT classes, or that you were even appointed.

I suggest that our members check their POST Profile on a regular basis, starting with their original appointment. The department must submit the Notice of Appointment form to POST. Verify that you have a POST Profile and that your academy information is present. Make sure that all your identifying information is correct. At least annually, assure that your department or CPT presenters have correctly submitted training information to POST. If you have been promoted to a higher Reserve Level or if you become full-time or retire, check to be sure that your current status is correct. You can access your POST profile on-line through a POST PASS account at [www.post.ca.gov](http://www.post.ca.gov).

## DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

If you've considered seeking a seat on the board, now is your opportunity to act. Nominations are open for three seats on the board, currently held by Nancy Elam, Dominic Gamboa and me. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2020. If there are three or fewer nominees they will be deemed elected. If there are more than three nominees there will be an election process to be completed at the end of May. Complete rules and the nomination forms are available at <https://crpoa.org/about/join-board-directors/>.

***Mike Voorhees is a practicing attorney, the retired reserve assistant sheriff for his former department and the chief executive officer of CRPOA. He welcomes your questions and comments at [voorhees@crpoa.org](mailto:voorhees@crpoa.org)***



# CRPOA General Counsel

By Ed Obayashi, Esq.

## RESERVE PEACE OFFICER SELF-PROTECTION

In my *First Report* to you in the last issue of *The BackUp*, I expressed my surprise at the problems facing reserve officers and deputies in good standing when trying to obtain CCWs and LEOSA credentials from their respective departments.

With about nine months as your General Counsel, I am even more confounded by the lengths to which some departments will go to deny what is clearly a legal right for reserves. Never mind the law, but what about just doing the “right thing”?

I am firmly convinced with every new case I encounter that there is ingrained discrimination against those affected reserves arising from an institutional and philosophical bias against “Right to Carry” for the public in general which has bled over into our world, primarily with police agencies as compared to sheriff agencies. Unfortunately, this bias has resulted in the current state CCW laws for reserves which run contrary to LEOSA.

Fortunately, there are some influential law enforcement managers who agree with our position and are willing to assist us in introducing legislation at the state level to cure the confusing morass of reserve- (both active and retired) related CCW statutes by conforming them to LEOSA.

I am pleased to announce that Siskiyou County Sheriff Jon Lopey has offered to assist us in the effort to make this happen. Sheriff Lopey is a highly respected sheriff who began his career as a reserve police officer with the Vacaville Police Department in 1977. He is currently serving his 10th year as Sheriff. Most importantly, Sheriff Lopey is a CRPOA member and, as such, is acutely sensitive to this issue. As an active committee member of the California State Sheriffs’ Association and legislative committee member of the California Peace Officers’ Association, he is well positioned to champion this cause.

## CLIENT ALERT: CHECK YOUR POST PROFILE

Some recent events have led me to strongly advise you to check your POST profile and ensure that it is both accurate and current. If it is not, take whatever steps necessary to ensure that it is. If your profile is not accurate or current, you may experience difficulties in maintaining your current reserve status with your department through no fault of your own, especially if your records have been lost or not properly maintained by the department.

***Ed Obayashi is a practicing attorney, a deputy sheriff, the legal advisor for his department and the general counsel for CRPOA. Note: For those members seeking legal advice, please contact your Association office by using this link: <https://crpoa.org/contact/> .***



## Legislative Update

Well, here we are in the final year of a two-year session with the legislature back in session beginning this month (January as I am writing this). Two-year bills (introduced last year and still alive this year) that are still in the house of origin must be sent to the floor by January 24. That is also the deadline for submitting drafts of new bill to the Legislative Council. January 31st is the deadline for two-year bills to pass off the floor in their house of origin. Lots of pressure on the bills, from last session, to get something done by the end of January. February 21st is the deadline for the introduction of new bills.



Like most sessions, they start off slow and pick up speed as the legislators move toward the end of the session. The national political situation tends to slow down things as well early on and this year seems to be no exception.

I have listed some of the more interesting holdovers from last year and have included some of the newly introduced bill for this session. The next article will be more focused since the two-year bills that don't make the cut before the end of January will be gone and the newly introduced bill will be well- defined as they move through the legislative process. If you have a specific bill that you want me to analyze next time just drop me a quick email at [downs@crpoa.org](mailto:downs@crpoa.org) . So here we go:

### NEW BILLS

**AB 855** Would require the Attorney General to convene a task force, as specified, to study the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers and to develop recommendations, including a model written policy, for law enforcement agencies.

**AB 1450** Would authorize a police or sheriff's department to which a report of suspected child abuse or severe neglect is made on or after January 1, 2021, or that is investigating an open case for which a report of suspected child abuse or severe neglect was made on or before January 1, 2021, to forward to the Department of Justice a report in writing of its investigation of known or suspected child abuse or severe neglect that is determined to be substantiated. The bill would require a police or sheriff's department that forwards a report to comply with the same requirements placed on other reporting agencies and would require the police or sheriff's department to adopt notification and grievance policies.

**AB 1599** Current law deems a record relating to an incident in which a sustained finding was made by any law enforcement agency or oversight agency that a peace officer or custodial officer engaged in sexual assault involving a member of the public as a public record. This bill would also make available for public inspection, pursuant to the California Public Records Act, peace officer or custodial officer personnel records pertaining to a peace officer or custodial officer accused of sexual assault involving a member of the public when the peace officer or custodial officer

resigns before the employing agency has concluded its investigation into the sexual assault. By requiring local government entities to provide these additional records, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**AB 1910** Would prohibit a person who is granted pretrial diversion from criminal prosecution for certain offenses, based on a mental health disorder, from owning or possessing a firearm, as specified.

**SB 853** Current law allows the court to issue a protective order restraining a defendant from any contact with the victim if the defendant has been convicted of a crime of domestic violence, human trafficking, a crime in furtherance of a criminal street gang, or a registerable sex offense. Under current law, the protective order may be valid for up to 10 years, as determined by the court. Current law, commencing January 1, 2021, requires a person required to register as a sex offender to register for 10 years, 20 years, or life, depending on the conviction for which the person is required to register. This bill would, in cases in which the defendant has been convicted for a felony offense that requires sex offender registration, allow the court to make the protective order valid for up to the duration of the period of registration.

**SB 710** Would require persons convicted of specified misdemeanors to provide buccal swab samples, right thumbprints, and a full palm print impression of each hand, and any blood specimens or other biological samples required for law enforcement identification analysis. By imposing additional duties on local law enforcement agencies to collect and forward these samples, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Two-Year Bills

**AB 243** Current law requires every peace officer to participate in expanded training prescribed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training that includes and examines evidence-based patterns, practices, and protocols that make up racial and identity profiling, including implicit bias. Once basic training is completed, current law requires specified peace officers to complete a refresher course on racial and identity profiling at least every 5 years. This bill would require those peace officers currently required to take the refresher course every 5 years, and additional peace officers, as specified, to instead take refresher training on racial and identity profiling, including the understanding of implicit bias and the promotion of bias-reducing strategies, at least every 2 years.

**AB 1069** Would authorize a video or audio recording made with a body-worn camera to be disclosed only if it relates to a depiction of the commission of a crime, a depiction of an incident in which officer misconduct is alleged, a depiction of a tactical response to an incident of significance, including, but not limited to, a terrorist attack or mass shooting, or a depiction of an officer-involved shooting or use of force. The bill would require recordings that are eligible for release, to the extent possible, to be redacted to protect the privacy of the victim or other parties, as specified.

I went light on the two-year bills (sorted by “police” and “firearms”) because they didn’t really get much traction in the last session and, for the most part will not be likely to move.

And, oh by the way, there is also the Governor’s budget to be dealt with as well before most of the deadlines come on the two-year bills.

***Pete Downs is our Vice President for Legislative Affairs. He welcomes your questions. Please email him at [downs@crpoa.org](mailto:downs@crpoa.org).***

# Nine Lives Lost in Horrific Sikorsky Helicopter Crash in Calabasas, California: A First Responder's Viewpoint.

By: David Katz, Team Leader, Malibu Search and Rescue Team, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

9:54 a.m. on Sunday January 26th, I was about to head out for a late breakfast when my cell phone rang. I saw the caller's name (Scott) and knew something was wrong. Scott is one of my teammates on the Malibu Search and Rescue Team (Malibu SAR), and only calls me if there's a potential rescue call. His voice was elevated, frenetic and energized. "What's up?" I asked. "There's a reported aircraft down near Malibu Creek State Park," he exclaimed "and I can't get ahold of our patrol crew". Scott said that he and another team member were close to the crash site and were headed there. I hung up and quickly called Rocky, a senior team member on the patrol crew. She answered and I could hear the rescue truck's siren blaring in the background. "What's your 20?" I asked. "We will be on scene in seconds and fire just requested us," she responded. I hung up the call, dispatched the Malibu SAR team and sped to my vehicle.



Coincidentally, I was in Calabasas that morning, less than 10 minutes from the crash site. I turned on my radios. The transmissions on both fire and sheriff's frequencies were hyper. Confusion ensued as responders tried to locate the incident and guide in responding resources. I arrived on scene to the cluster that accompanies the first hour of a mass casualty incident (MCI). Sketchy information, lots of first responders milling about. This one would be different.

Arriving on scene, I parked my vehicle by the command post, grabbed my tactical rescue vest, harness and helmet and hiked up to where multiple fire trucks and the Malibu SAR rescue truck was parked. From there, we stood watching the large whitish-blue plume of smoke about three quarters of a mile up the mountain.

Hovering low under the fog line, just above the smoke, was a Los Angeles County Fire helicopter. Two fire department brush crews were midway through the strenuous hike up the hillside. Fortunately, the fire from the crash had not triggered a brush fire. It was contained to the wreckage and they soon headed back down.

Over the fire frequency, there was a crackling voice. "No survivors. Three fatalities". The helicopter lowered its hoist cable and retrieved the paramedic that was assessing the scene. It was now a crime scene and the recovery operation the Sheriff's Department's responsibility.

I consulted with our patrol crew and decided that a few of us would quickly return to our Sheriff's station a mile away, retrieve our ATVs. Minutes later as I was filling my ATV with gas, a breaking news alert displayed on my phone. "Kobe Bryant dead in helicopter crash in Calabasas." "Oh my god," I announced. My teammates looked over at me. "Kobe Bryant was on the copter," Their faces turned white. We knew that this would not be a normal recovery and we needed to get back on scene and secure it.



Firing up the ATVs, we roared out of the parking lot, making our way back within a few minutes. My partner Rocky and I steamed up a nearby narrow hiking trail on one ATV. The trail was so tight it would prove difficult to turn the ATV around. At various points I had Rocky exit the ATV because the trail was washed out and dangerous to cross. As we proceeded uphill, my phone updated with more breaking news. The first report was three victims. Then it was five, then seven, and finally nine.

Nine fatalities? Apparently, the news had received information about the passenger manifest.

About 20 minutes later, Rocky and I arrived at the crash site, not knowing what to expect. We graduated the Sheriff's academy together in 1990. We had both seen our share of deaths in the 30 years since. But nothing prepared us for what we encountered. It was horrific. Imagine hitting a hillside in an aircraft at super high speed. You cannot "unsee" it no matter how many times you try.

As we exited the ATV, we could smell the unmistakable strong jet fuel odor. For safety, we parked about 200 yards away from the main crash site in case the hillside ignited. We turned the ATV around for a hasty exit and then started walking to the crash. First briskly, then slowly and cautiously. We passed the ominous helicopter tail section that had come to rest on the hiking trail. There was no tail rotor left, just the frame and the manufacturer's name "Sikorsky" painted on the side.

As we rounded the mountainside towards the smoke, we came upon the fuselage. There were deceased passengers nearby. We gasped. There was an awkward silence that permeated the landscape. It was a solemn scene, deserving of our respect and care. We knew without words that many families will be forever changed. As we approached, we could smell the toxic magnesium cloud that swayed back and forth as the wind shifted among the low-lying fog.

That morning was an incredibly low ceiling of fog. By the time we reached the crash site, the fog line was not much higher than the top of the mountain. The cause of the crash was under investigation, but speculation ensued. Weather? Pilot error? Medical emergency? Mechanical? The cause was unimportant. At that moment we had a job to do. As we stepped toward the fire, we met up with the lone deputy that had hiked up to the site. He was standing on the other side

of the burning wreckage. We could not cross over the smoldering melted metal to get him. I tossed him a couple of bottles of water and asked him what we had.

He told us he had located additional fatalities. Rocky and I climbed the hillside to search around, assess for scene safety, determine the size of the debris field, locate victims, and plan for additional required resources and equipment.

Requests were made. Hazmat experts to extinguish the magnesium fire, 10 deputies to secure the scene overnight, coroner, NTSB, FAA, homicide detectives and others. Late that afternoon, the NTSB, homicide detectives and coroners arrived en masse. Fire department Hazmat firefighters also arrived with specialized equipment. Investigators began to document the scene, taking pictures and making notes while hazmat addressed the magnesium fire and hazardous materials.



Additional Malibu SAR rescuers had already arrived to cover the victims. Assisting agencies spent hours at the scene. We helped several of them up the steep hillside above the airframe. We were quickly losing daylight and the temperature was dropping precipitously.

The coroner authorized the removal of three victims that first night. Malibu SAR started evacuations using a litter and litter wheel down the hillside to the command post. Because of the conditions, the coroner personnel decided the remaining victims would be removed the next day and requested that we field additional rescue personnel at 7 a.m. Sunday night I called our team for additional responders the next morning. The locations of some of the victims would require technical rope systems to evacuate and we would need a lot of personnel.

Since most of our team had been at a two-day snow and ice training that weekend, rescuers were exhausted. As night fell, we added a call to our sister team, Montrose Search and Rescue (Montrose SAR). We requested six rescuers for Monday. They responded and sent 11.

Unlike Sunday, Monday was a calmly planned operation. After assessing our needs on Sunday night, we knew the terrain lacked adequate rope system anchors, there was a large debris field, multiple fatalities in various locations and the presence of hazardous materials and dangerous sharp objects everywhere.

I coordinated with a senior Malibu SAR teammate, designating him the field team leader for Monday. The plan was to create anchors using pickets and deploy ropes systems to lower and raise rescuers and victims. This would be followed by a large-scale search by all rescuers of the vast debris field.

In total, 23 Malibu SAR and 11 Montrose SAR personnel deployed over the two-day operation. These 34 rescuers were integral to scene safety, securing the scene from interlopers, recovering victims and assisting other agencies with searches for evidence and remains.

It will forever be engrained in our psyches that we were at the crash of Kobe Bryant and his daughter and seven of their close friends. Three of them were 13 years old. Many of the rescuers have children, some of which are the same age. It hit home for us, we are human. There were mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, wives, and husbands that were killed. There are families forever changed. The grim task that we all accepted hopefully brings solace to the surviving loved ones.

After 30 years of doing search and rescue, my friends know what we do. The areas that we cover - Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura, Westlake have their share of high-profile residents and it's not uncommon for us to have a call involving a famous person. As I stood on the hillside that day, my cell phone blew up with texts and calls. "Is it true?" "Is it Kobe?" "Are you at the crash?" Texts were coming in one after the other. "I can't talk, I can't confirm anything" I responded. The next day, about 50 people posted on my Facebook, all saying pretty much the same thing. "I had a feeling that you were there. It must have been so difficult. Thank you for your service. I hope you are okay."

Despite the horror of those two days, I'm most proud of the volunteers of Malibu SAR and Montrose SAR for their work over the two-day incident. Yes, volunteers! This was a gruesome task, but it was our responsibility. Everyone mustered their game face and compartmentalized the experience. There would be time later to decompress. I encouraged our rescuers to reach out if they needed assistance to cope. There is no shame, no embarrassment, no judgment.

A week later, a psychologist came to meet with our team and talk about PTSD, coping with stress and how to recognize signs of suffering. We discussed monitoring each other and keeping an eye out for changes in behavior and expressed our feelings and struggles openly. One team member explained how he had unnecessarily chewed out another team member a couple of days after the crash. He realized something was wrong and reached out for help.

This incident heavily impacted Los Angeles residents, as well as people around the world. May the nine victims rest in peace and may their families find a modicum of solace to move forward in the face of their overwhelming loss.

We are an unbroken band of first responders. We are a family. We are the first and last line for many. We are search and rescue, "so others may live".

# The doctor is In: Calif. reserve officer serves on the SWAT team

Dr. Joshua Bobko has courted nightmare scenarios for a long time, which is what makes him so essential to his SWAT team

Nov 19, 2019

By Shawn Price



Dr. Joshua Bobko taking part in a training exercise with West (Orange) County SWAT in Fountain Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019. (Photo/Paul Rodriguez)

A flash-bang triggers a concussion of sound and energy out a warehouse door and into the parking lot. A car alarm instantly cries out.

Joshua Bobko is hanging back, carefully watching the [West County SWAT team](#) - a regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team serving the cities of Cypress, Los Alamitos, Westminster, Seal Beach and Fountain Valley - pour through the doorway of an empty Fountain Valley warehouse. The threat is a training simulation but Bobko's concern is real. And the car alarm, of course, just keeps going.

"That one second of unknown is crazy," he says a few steps outside the door, dressed in tactical gear, including a weapon and protective vest. He's the team's medic and advisor, and he's undergone tactical training.

Bobko is an Air Force veteran and full-time emergency department doctor, so he's seen his share of bad. He knows how even the simple and simulated can sometimes go wrong. His job is to worry and he's happy to take on that responsibility.

"You're worried when they tap on the door, the whole house might explode," Bobko says. "I have the easy job. These guys are gonna go, bomb or no bomb?"

He worked the previous night in the emergency department, but his commitment does not waver. Nothing will keep him from this: "I'm den mother and I don't want anybody else touching my guys. If anything ever happened to them and I wasn't there, I don't know what I'd do with myself."

Bobko has, in a way, courted nightmare scenarios for a long time, and consequently became an expert on prepping for them. That's what makes him so essential to his SWAT team.

He did disaster management when his North Carolina Air Force base was flooded. "I got interested in disaster medicine," he says. He left the military for medical school and during his residency, was asked to train with the Navy team he worked with.



Dr. Joshua Bobko, right, walks back into a warehouse where West (Orange) County SWAT was holding a training exercise in Fountain Valley on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. (Photo/Paul Rodriguez)

“Next thing I know, I’m in a field at three in the morning with a bunch of SEALs,” he says.

During his fellowship at Loma Linda University Medical Center, he worked with local air rescue and FBI special agents and was eventually invited to be a reserve officer for the Westminster PD, providing he entered the academy.

“I did all the things I would have done had I walked in off the street. I just walked in with a different skill set,” he says. “I am a reserve police officer. I can speak police officer. I can move police officer. I can cut my hair short and look police officer, but I make no mistake that these guys do this job all day, every day.

Even though I have the training, I do medicine and I would never jump into other roles. It’s just that I can do my job in the context of this mechanism.”

The job, Bobko says, is 90% team health. He is committed to ensuring health and safety is a priority.

“It’s making sure the guys are able to do the job the team needs them to do. Making sure that thing they don’t want to tell their chain of command about, we’ve taken a look at and it’s not going to cause a problem down the road. Because they’re not going to say no. I have to pull them out to make sure they don’t hurt themselves. I have to say no.”

Next is education.

“Because it’s going to take me a while to get from the perimeter to their location,” he says. “Making sure they understand the principles of trauma so they don’t forget what is tactically sound because of some medical thing they’re now under stress trying to remember. I want them to stay safe, take care of the problem and each other. Then we’ll deal with the rest of it.



West (Orange) County SWAT officers run through a training exercise in Fountain Valley on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019. (Photo/Paul Rodriguez)

“I watch them and that helps me communicate with them from a point of understanding,” he says. “If I look at how they’re working on some contingency where somebody’s hurt, I can talk to them about their angles. ‘Don’t do your medical treatment here. Take three steps to the left and do your medical treatment there and that maintains your cover.’ Those are things that directly affect them, and you train and train and train until you can’t get it wrong.”

Lastly, it’s actually treating injuries and medical situations at the scene. “The little injuries,” he says. “Whenever we break something, somebody gets cut, or if one of these sim rounds will ricochet.”

As much as he brings to this job, he also gets a lot in return.

“I know I lessen their burden a little bit and that’s really cool,” he says. “There’s not a lot of other jobs you can do that affect people so directly just by being there.”

The requisite passion and adrenaline rush of disaster medicine is always tempered by a sobering reality for Bobko, as it would be for any doctor in the job.

“All trauma medicine is predicated on minutes,” he says. “The only thing I can’t give you back is time. I can put blood back in you, but your blood is better than anything I can give you, so the few seconds or few minutes of you not bleeding and your system staying intact is better than an hour of transfusions.”

And the non-profit educational program he co-founded, [firstcareprovider.org](http://firstcareprovider.org), has only furthered what the SWAT team already knows: That prepping for a crisis can lessen its impact. Nevertheless, Bobko is resolute.

“It’s the best job there is. We’re the best part of everybody else’s job. Any surgery, any trauma, any heart attack, any birth, anything. The best part of it comes to me and then I’ll call you when I need you. Every shift there’s always something to learn. Something you haven’t seen. Something you didn’t expect.”

Even if the worrying part of the job is never far. Including today.

“When you do operations, you have that moment when you switch off that laser focus you had,” he says as the team finishes their simulation. “You come back and you’re unloading your weapon or whatever and you let your guard down just a second.”

The team loads up without incident and cars begin to pull out of the parking lot. The car alarm has long since gone quiet. Soon, only Bobko's car remains.

"I'm always the last person to leave," he says. "I don't feel good until everybody is driving home safely. The rest of it, these guys are professional, they can handle anything."

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# LAPD Reserve Officer Saves Veteran's Life After Suicide Attempt

January 4, 2020 at 1:34 pm

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — Paul Strauss is a volunteer [LAPD Reserve Officer](#) and a doctor, which proved to be crucial in saving the life of a female war veteran who tried to kill herself Thursday. Strauss was among the officers dispatched to the woman's location after she posted online that she was going to take her own life.

“When we arrived and entered her room where she was unresponsive and not breathing, clearly from taking the pills and alcohol that were around the room. As a physician of many years, I just did what I was trained to do by both LAPD and my medical experience,” Strauss said. “I assisted her breathing while LAFD was called, who arrived several minutes later.”

Reserve police officers are people who have careers in another profession, would like to volunteer to serve the community as a reserve officer, and are trained by the Los Angeles Police Academy.

“It highlights that as first responders, police officers, more often than they realize, are first on scene by several minutes to medical emergencies,” the LA Police Reserve Foundation said. “By acting swiftly we make a difference and save lives. It highlights the value of the reserve program that allows specialized expertise of reserve officers to be brought to the Department and ultimately to the citizens of Los Angeles.”



*California Reserve Peace Officers Association*

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# Hypothermia

Written by Mark Hollinger, RN, MICN, EMT

Medical Officer, Malibu Search and Rescue  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
And Senior Instructor and Consultant,  
Emergency Medicine/Emergency Nursing,  
Los Angeles County- USC Medical Center



Hypothermia is defined as a temperature less than 95 degrees Fahrenheit (or 35 degrees Celsius).

There are 2 main categories of hypothermia, MEDICAL (severe infection/sepsis, hypothyroidism, hypoglycemia, sedative drugs, and stroke) and ENVIRONMENTAL (exposure to cold, immersion in cold water/near-drowning).

I will focus this paper on environmental hypothermia, mainly exposure to the cold.

Predisposing factors include inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter (including homeless population), age extremes (very young and very old), being wet (incontinent of urine, being in the water, or out in the rain), and certain medical conditions and medications.

Signs and symptoms include cold skin (obvious if you feel the skin), decreased level of consciousness (confusion, etc.), shivering (always good, but will stop when temperature reaches 87.8 F), weak and slow pulse (usually less than 60/min), slow respirations (can be less than 12/min), and signs of dehydration.

Management includes warming the victim. This can be accomplished by removing wet clothing, covering victim in a blanket, wrapping the head in a towel (much heat is lost through the scalp), and bringing the victim into a warm environment.

There is one type of environmental hypothermia that is life-threatening and requires special care. This is called Urban Hypothermia. In this situation, the victim got cold over many hours and requires rewarming over many hours (1 degree per hour). During the many hours of getting cold, the body's metabolism slows way down and makes the heart very irritable, unstable, and prone to cardiac arrest. If you warm this victim too fast, they are very likely to go into cardiac arrest. Slow rewarming and very gentle handling are important to prevent cardiac arrest. The cardiac arrest occurs because cold blood pools in the extremities and become very acidic and develops high levels of potassium (from body cells breaking open and releasing potassium). If victim is moved around too much or too quickly rewarmed, this cold, acidic, high potassium blood reaches the already irritable heart and can make it go into ventricular fibrillation (cardiac arrest). On the other hand, if the victim got cold quickly and is not showing signs of slowed metabolism (very slow heart rate, very slow breathing, confusion or coma), then rapid rewarming of okay (warm bathtub if available). Also, very slow metabolism in a very cold victim can mimic death, so do a good assessment. While assessing the victim, always look for signs of injury (especially head trauma).

Stay warm!

## ANDREA FRIEDMAN AWARD: RESERVE OFFICER JAMES LOMBARDI

Michael Sellars, Editor of The Rotator Summer 2019 Edition

Reserve Police Officer James Carl Lombardi, Central Division, is the recipient of the 2019 Andrea Friedman Award. He was recognized at the Twice a Citizen gala for his above-and-beyond service to the Reserve Corps.

Officer Lombardi began a 50-year career of dedicated service with the LAPD when he graduated from the Academy in December 1969. When he entered the Academy, Jim was the owner of Lombardi's Restaurant at 7th and Flower streets, then the hottest ticket in town. Among the restaurant regulars were some of LAPD's finest, who told him how the Reserve Police Officer Program had been newly overhauled with an emphasis on patrol and field enforcement and persuaded him to become a reserve policeman.

His entrance into law enforcement progressed into a lifetime of accomplishments that continue to this day – from patrolling the streets to becoming a longtime leader in the LAPD and to helping make the Department's Reserve Corps the gold standard of reserve law enforcement that it's known for today. Officer Lombardi became president of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association (CRPOA), representing reserves statewide on countless legislative issues, from firearms to workers' compensation. His fingerprints are indelibly marked on codes and laws that we now take for granted in California and throughout the country.

The Rotator newsletter for LAPD reserve officers, in its winter 2012 interview of Jim, wrote: "If you are an LAPD reserve police officer, you should know of Jim Lombardi – unless you've lived under a rock. Reserve Officer Lombardi has lived and breathed the LAPD Reserve Corps, and California reserve law enforcement, for a very long time."

Jim has spent his entire LAPD career in Central Division and has received the Reserve Officer of the Year Award, at the division and at the bureau, for the Department numerous times. He continues to serve in the Department, in CRPOA and on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation.

Always ready to explore new pursuits, he recently embarked on a project with his daughter to record the stories of his life, resulting in the newly released book *A Sense of Humor*. Along with details of events such as his childhood in North Hollywood and those years at Lombardi's Restaurant "with colorful characters, famed musicians and notorious gangsters" are several chapters devoted to when he began wearing the most famous badge in the world. These are pages of interest and significance to those of us in law enforcement, because they shed an informative and often entertaining light on how the job was done "in the old days" as well as allowing a glimpse into what it takes to legislate a bill in Sacramento.

Officer Lombardi has seen a lot of changes in law enforcement during his career, and perhaps his most meaningful advice to young officers is to "maintain a sense of humor ... smile and laugh off a lot ... you can get so much done and feel so much better about it with a sense of humor."



*California Reserve Peace Officers Association*

[www.crpoa.org](http://www.crpoa.org) | [info@crpoa.org](mailto:info@crpoa.org) | (855) 552-7762 | PO Box 1238, Pacifica, CA 94044

# 2020 CRPOA AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT AND CRITERIA

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association is proud to announce the Annual Awards Program for 2020. We invite you to nominate a deserving member of your organization for one of several recognition awards. The awards will be presented at our Annual Awards Luncheon at ARPOC 2020 held in conjunction with the Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference, which offers 28 hours of POST approved training.

Do not miss out on an opportunity to honor a deserving individual within your organization. Recognition is for Reserve Peace Officers, Search and Rescue Members and Volunteers in Policing as well as Reserve Coordinators.

Review the award nomination information to determine which award is best suited to your nominee. *Along with the Award Nomination Application, a letter of nomination **must** be submitted detailing the nominee's qualifications and accomplishments. Documentation supporting the nomination letter must be included.* Questions can be forwarded to [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org) . Nominations deadline is June 15, 2020.

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## Award Criteria

*Please note, in 2013 the CRPOA Board of Directors voted to modify the time restriction on awards to three years. You may now submit nomination for events which occurred up to three years ago. The Board will also consider exceptions for older events on a case-by-case basis.*

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## Award for Valor

For an act of conspicuous bravery in the line of duty, performed in conscious disregard of peril to the officer. To be awarded, all of the following criteria must exist:

- ◆ The bravery exhibited must be above and beyond that expected in the line of duty.
- ◆ Failure to take such action would not justify censure.
- ◆ The risk to the officer's life actually existed and the officer was able to perceive the risk and disregard it.
- ◆ The objective was of sufficient importance to justify the risk.
- ◆ The officer accomplished the objective or was prevented from accomplishing it by incurring serious injury or death.

### Notes:

- *The criteria for this award include consciousness of the peril and the disregard thereof. Thus, merely finding oneself in the middle of a perilous situation and having to take action to get out of it would not qualify.*
- *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.*
- *May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing. The nominee does not need to be a CRPOA member.*
- *The act must have occurred between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2020, inclusive.*

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## Award of Honor

Presented to the family of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing whose life was given in the line of duty due to the action of a third party.

Notes:

- *This award recognizes supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. It does not require that the officer knowingly placed himself or herself in a perilous situation nor does it require an act of heroism in order to be awarded. It does require the action of a third party in causing the death.*
- *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards. In an appropriate case, an Award for Valor and an Award of Honor could be made for the same action.*
- *May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing.*
- *The decedent need not have been a CRPOA member.*
- *The death must have occurred between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2020, inclusive.*

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**Reserve Officer of the Year, Search and Rescue Member of the Year, and /or Volunteer in Policing of the Year**

Awarded to the nominee excelling in all the qualifications for the Meritorious Service Award which place the reserve officer/search and rescue member/volunteer in policing clearly above all other candidates.

Notes:

- *Only one qualifying award shall be made each year for each of three categories: reserve peace officer, search and rescue member and volunteer in policing.*
- *The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.*
- *The qualifying actions must occur prior to May 31, 2020.*

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**Meritorious Service Award**

For especially meritorious service to the department in a duty of great responsibility. The duty may be either assigned or self-initiated. Superior performance of the normal duties of the position will not alone justify the award.

Considerations for the award include all areas of:

- ◆ Outstanding performance of the officer's duties either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Extraordinary level of assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- ◆ Extraordinary level of service to the community;
- ◆ Training or teaching within the department
- ◆ Longevity with the department.

Notes:

- *The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.*
- *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.*
- *The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2020, inclusive.*

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### **Distinguished Service Award**

For distinguished service by a reserve officer, SAR member or volunteer in policing. Considerations for the award include one or more of the following:

- ◆ Distinguished service either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Substantial assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- ◆ Substantial service to the community
- ◆ Training or teaching within the department
- ◆ Longevity with the department

#### **Notes:**

- *The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.*
- *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.*
- *The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2020, inclusive.*

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### **Award of Appreciation**

For distinguished service to the members of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association. Considerations for the award include:

- ◆ Distinguished service to the Association either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Substantial assistance or contribution to the Association

#### **Notes:**

- *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.*
- *The qualifying service must occur between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2020, inclusive.*

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### **Coordinator of the Year**

Presented to the coordinator of reserve peace officers, search and rescue members or volunteers in policing who excels in:

- ◆ Displaying a strong commitment to the unit
- ◆ Dedication to the enhancement of the professionalism and training of the unit members
- ◆ Promoting a positive image of unit members within the department and the community
- ◆ Demonstrating efforts to use unit members in non-traditional roles or assignments

#### **Notes:**

- *The nominee must be a full-time employee of the department in which he or she serves as the coordinator of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue or volunteer in policing unit.*
- *The nomination must be made from within the unit supervised by the nominee. It may not be made by the department or by another full-time employee of the department. Supporting letters from the department are encouraged.*
- *Only one qualifying award shall be presented.*
- *The qualifying service must occur prior to May 31, 2020*

## General Notes

### **Important note to nominators:**

Nominators for any CRPOA award shall be:

- A chief executive of a law enforcement agency; or,
- A full-time officer who serves as a reserve coordinator; or
- A General Member of the Association.

When submitting a nomination please review the awards criteria thoroughly to assure that your nominee meets the criteria. You may submit a nomination for the highest possible award for which you believe your nominee meets the criteria. The Awards Committee may determine that your nominee qualifies for the category nominated or may select the nominee to be recognized in a different category. For example, a candidate nominated for Reserve Officer of the Year might receive that award or may be honored with the Meritorious Service Award or other qualifying award.

Nominations packets **must** include:

- 1) An **application** completed and legible.
- 2) A **letter of nomination** on department letterhead summarizing the qualifications of the candidate for a specific award.
- 3) **Documentation supporting qualifications**, such as awards, certificates, commendations, letters.
- 4) If a specific event, **copies of incident/police reports, news coverage, photos/video**.

Nominators must also assure that contact information for award notification is current.

Note: Nominations may be sent to the Awards Committee at:

- California Reserve Peace Officers Association, P.O. Box 1238, Pacifica, CA 94044
- Or scan and e-mail your nomination packet to [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org).
- If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of the nomination packet by the Awards Committee within 2 weeks of mailing or emailing documents, contact Nancy Elam by email or phone immediately.

Any questions about the nomination process can be forwarded to Nancy Elam, Awards Committee Chairman by email at [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org) or by phone at 408-309-8756.

**The deadline for the receipt of nominations is June 15, 2020**



California Reserve Peace Officers Association

[www.crpoa.org](http://www.crpoa.org) | [info@crpoa.org](mailto:info@crpoa.org) | (855) 552-7762 | PO Box 1238, Pacifica, CA 94044



## ***Direct Impact*** ***February 18, 2020***

### **Notice of Freedom of Information Act Request**

We have again made a request of POST for the names and agencies of Reserve officers in California. Your agency will be notified by POST through the EDI system within the next few days. We are notifying you so you'll be aware of the request in the event that someone in your department asks you why the request has been made.

To reach Reserve Peace Officers in California and inform them about our organization and training, we have requested information from POST. Specifically, we requested the name, department, reserve level and date of appointment for all California Reserve Officers. **No personal identifying information such as an address or date of birth was requested** (nor would it be divulged by POST if we had requested it). We have requested the information so we'll become aware of those who have become Reserves for the first time or who have changed departments since our last request in 2016.

Sending an email to a department, general in nature, which requests that the information be forwarded to all Reserves, is a non-starter. We know from experience that it doesn't work. Similarly, mailing many copies of letters to a department with a similar request would only lead to frustration. We know that letters not personally addressed are not generally read. We need names.

As they ought to for all our protection, POST maintains confidentiality of information about all of those for whom it records information, including Reserve Peace Officers. In order to access even the limited information we requested we were required to file a Freedom of Information Act/Public Records Act request. To protect officers who might have an undercover assignment, POST will send an EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) notice to all departments informing them of our request, the reason therefore and will afford the departments a reasonable period of time to redact (have removed from the list) the name of any officers who the department believed should not be identified as a Reserve Peace Officer, such as those working undercover.

To be clear, **we have not requested anything from your department!** POST will notify your department and afford it an opportunity to redact names from the list of officers whose limited information we are seeking. **This will take very little of your department's time!**

Once we obtain the requested information, we will prepare a letter explaining who we are, what we do and how to join, and then mail the letter to each non-CRPOA member, in care of their department. The list of names and other information will be held confidentially by CRPOA and used only for the purposes stated. The list from POST will not be released to any third party.

Of the nearly 5,000 Reserve Peace Officers in California, CRPOA has only about a third as members. Increasing the membership of CRPOA is vital to the continuation of your association. By being able to contact Reserve Officers who are not presently members and who may not know much or anything about us, we can boost our membership. Increased membership ensures the viability of the association in general and directly supports the conferences, the benefits available and our legislative efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [voorhees@crpoa.org](mailto:voorhees@crpoa.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Voorhees, Chief Executive Officer



JACKIE LACEY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

# ONE MINUTE BRIEF

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NUMBER: 2020-04 DATE: 02-11-20 BY: Devallis Rutledge TOPIC: Motel Room Entry & Search

## ISSUE: When can police enter and search a hotel or motel room without violating the guest's Fourth Amendment rights?

Crooks like to use hotel and motel rooms because they provide a *“particularly attractive site for criminal activity ranging from drug dealing and prostitution to human trafficking.”* *Los Angeles v. Patel* (2015) 135 S.Ct. 2443, 2457, Scalia, dissenting. But a hotel or motel guest has the **same Fourth Amendment rights** in a rented room as in his or her own home. *Stoner v. California* (1964) 376 US 483, 490. This means that as long as the guest is entitled to occupy the room, law enforcement officers may only enter with a search or arrest warrant, consent of an occupant, probation/parole/PRCS search term, or exigency. See 1MB 2018-16.

What kinds of circumstances might **extinguish** a person's Fourth Amendment rights in a hotel or motel room where evidence of criminal activity might be located?

• **Abandonment.** Once the guest has vacated the room, the clerk may consent to entry and search, and evidence left behind by the guest may be seized:

- *Abel v. US* (1960) 362 US 217, 241 (papers left in the wastebasket of vacated room).
- *People v. Raine* (1967) 250 Cal.App.2d 517, 521 (entry OK after occupants were arrested without having paid for their room, even though they left belongings behind, and even though before normal checkout time).
- *People v. Parson* (2008) 44 Cal.3d 332, 348 (room abandoned after guest fled out the back window, leaving possessions behind, and failed to return before checkout time or pay for additional days, even though the motel had not tried to terminate his occupancy, because *“the question of abandonment should not necessarily turn on whether a motel's management elects to repossess.”*).

LADA ONE-MINUTE BRIEF NO. 2020-04 PAGE 2

● **Fraudulent Occupancy.** A person who has “stolen” the use of a motel room by paying with stolen or forged credit cards, for example, should have no greater **legitimate** expectation of privacy there than in a stolen car:

• *People v. Satz* (1998) 61 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 322, 326 (suspect who paid with a stolen credit card “has no legitimate expectation of privacy in the room, or an expectation that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable.”).

• *US v. Cunag* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) 386 F.3d 888, 894 (suspect who fraudulently used a decedent’s credit card “procured this room through deliberate and calculated fraud. Like the driver of a stolen car, Cunag was not a lawful occupant.”).

**However**, as the *Cunag* decision points out at p. 895, “**in the Ninth Circuit**, the rule is that even if the occupant of a hotel room has procured that room by fraud, the occupant’s protected Fourth Amendment expectation of privacy is not finally extinguished until the hotel justifiably takes **affirmative steps** to repossess the room.” (Locking out guests and calling the police were found to be sufficient “affirmative steps.”)

See also, *US v. Dorais* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001) 241 F.3d 1124, 1129, finding that hotel management’s practice of allowing holdovers to remain in rooms after checkout time extends the guest’s legitimate expectation of privacy.

See also, *US v. Young* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009) 573 F.3d 711, 716, ruling (in contradictory terms) that even though the guest had procured the room through fraud, he “**maintained a reasonable (although fraudulent) expectation of privacy**” because of inaction by the hotel.

See also, *People v. Munoz* (2008) 167 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 126, 132, ruling that since there was no proof a guest was **aware** she was paying with a counterfeit bill, she could contest entry.

● Because Ninth Circuit rulings control evidence admissibility and civil liability in **federal** cases, officers should consult civil legal advisors as to proper precautions under the Ninth Circuit rules regarding warrantless entry into hotel and motel rooms.

**BOTTOM LINE: A person who has abandoned a rented room no longer has Fourth Amendment protection there; a person who fraudulently obtains a room cannot assert Fourth Amendment protection there in California courts, but may be able to do so in federal courts if the management has not taken “affirmative steps” to reclaim the room.** (Emphases added in quoted material.)

This information was current as of publication date. It is not intended as legal advice. It is recommended that readers check for subsequent developments and consult legal advisors to ensure currency after publication. Local policies and procedures regarding application should be observed.

# *A Big Thank you...*

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association would like to thank the following people and organizations for permission to reprint their articles:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and Devallis Rutledge for their monthly edition of the One Minute Brief

David Katz, Team Leader, Malibu Search & Rescue Team, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - "Nine Lives Lost in Horrific Sikorsky Helicopter Crash in Calabasas, California. A First Responder's Viewpoint"

Shawn Price - [www.policeone.com](http://www.policeone.com) - "The Doctor is In: Calif. Reserve Officer Serves on SWAT Team"

Karla Ahmanson - [www.losangeles.cbslocal.com](http://www.losangeles.cbslocal.com) - "LAPD Reserve Officer Saves Veteran's Life After Suicide Attempt"

Mark Hollinger, RN, MICN, EMT - Malibu Search & Rescue Team, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - "Hypothermia"

Michael Sellars, Editor of The Rotator Summer 2019 Edition - "ANDREA FRIEDMAN AWARD: RESERVE OFFICER JAMES LOMBARDI"