AAPE Fall Edition

Fall Edition 2015

Special points of interest:

- 1,200 firearms and 2 tons of ammo—What would you do???
- Drug Addiction … From local Police Departments to Federal Agents
- Patton on Leadership.
- Discover Your Strengths
- S'mores Snack Mix
- Clumsy Crooks

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President's Message

Hello everyone! Well, it is already late-August (seems like it was just New Years!) and Christmas is just barely 120 days away. Yikes! Time sur flies when you work in P & E!

Anyway, our next quarterly meeting is coming up on Wednesday, September 9th. It will be held at the Fort McDowell Police Department located at 10755 N. Fort McDowell Rd., in fort McDowell Az. This is our first meeting since the training seminar and it will be my first meeting as your new President of the Association. I look forward to the next two years serving as your President.

There are several projects I would like to accomplish while I am President. Several members have suggested we look into a certification program. I think this has merit and I will be appointing a chairperson for a Certification Committee. Once I make that appointment, I will request volunteer committee members who will work with the chairperson to research other certification programs for Property and Evidence and to recommend (or not recommend) a program for our Association.

Another project I would like to look into is an award program to include "Property and Evidence Technician of the year", "Property and Evidence Supervisor of the year" and "Arizona Association for Property and Evidence member of the year" award. I would like to appoint a chairperson for an Award Committee, with volunteer committee members who will work with the chairperson to research other award programs for Property and Evidence and to recommend (or not recommend) an award program for our Association.

These two projects will be discussed at the next meeting on September 9th and afterwards we will most likely be looking for volunteers to participate on the two committees. I hope some of you will consider serving on one or both of these committees.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the September meeting!

Lane Darling

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting

Location:

Fort McDowell Police Department

10755 N. Fort McDowell #3

Fort McDowell, AZ 85264

Refreshments 9-10,

Meeting starts at 10.

© Nick Ut/AP Photo to Los Angeles Police Department Cmdr. Andrew J. Smith speaks to the media.

What Would You Do???

LOS ANGELES — Police investigating the death of a Los Angeles man uncovered an arsenal inside his home and garage — more than 1,200 guns and about two tons of ammunition, authorities said Monday.

Los Angeles Police Department Cmdr. Andrew Smith called the number of rifles, pistols and shotguns staggering. Many had never been fired and some were still wrapped in boxes, with price tags still attached.

"Our truck couldn't carry it all," Smith told the Los Angeles Times (http://lat.ms/1HFAKVn). "We had to go back and make another trip."

There were no signs of foul play. Police have found no evidence the man, who has not been identified, was involved in criminal activity.

Police made the discovery after the man's decomposing body was found in a car down the street from his home in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood.

Detectives want to find out why he had so many guns and are examining the weapons to determine if they have been linked to any crime. "We have a lot of work to do," Smith said. "Running the background, history and legality of these weapons is going to require a tremendous amount of time."

"It's not a crime to have a large number of weapons so long as they were legal to own and legally obtained," Smith added. "We want to make sure that's the case."

To love means to say, "It is good that you are you, it is very good." - Ladislaus Boros

Reducing Stress:

Structure to the Rescue

Reduce stress and maximize productivity by structuring your day. Drifting mindlessly into work every day can create stress and increase risk of burnout. Start your day with a goal—personal or work-related. Inspire yourself to act on that goal by linking it to a larger overarching plan for your life. Select a couple of tasks matched to this daily goal. You'll notice a small stir of excitement. That's the feeling of being back in the driver's seat of your life! If you fall back into "the routine" days later (a natural occurrence), recall this strategy and begin again. Feel the mental boost again. This approach elevates your life to improve your attitude at work, reduce stress, and build a positive feedback loop as you accomplish things for yourself that link to your happiness.

Become a More Diligent Worker

Being a diligent worker is a fast way to impress management and leadership. Diligence means being careful and persistent in your work. Most employees want to be viewed as diligent. If you're one of them and believe in the long-term rewards of diligence, here's the secret: conscientiousness. Being conscientious is not a work style. It is an attitude that drives the diligent worker's behavior. Being conscientious means wanting to do what is right—well and thoroughly. Here's your motivation: Diligent workers are valued and easily stand out. If you exercise diligence, you can count on management talking behind your back—and it will be all good talk that builds your reputation

Making Better Use of Your Lunch Hour

Your lunch hour is "me" time, so enjoy it. But don't fall for the notion that you can't put it to good use "working" for yourself to reduce stress by taking care of small chores, errands, and to-dos that will free up time after work. If you tend to eat for 15 minutes and zone out for 15 to 45 more, see if any of these ideas whet your appetite for a different kind of lunch—a power lunch that buys free time so you have better days, more pleasant evenings, and fewer weekends bogged down with errands: 1) Plan a grocery list or evening meal. 2) Pay bills. 3) Plan your weekend. 4) Go for a walk. 5) Pick out birthday cards, do short errands, and grocery shop for all the non-refrigerated items to save time later. 6) Schedule personal/ medical appointments. 7) Call family and friends to wish them a happy birthday. 8) Have lunch with a mentor. Before work begins or during a commute on public transportation, plan your to-dos for lunch breaks to supercharge your entire week. Save your list and be amazed at how much you accomplished

I'll admit I'm guilty for working through my lunch hour. I am finding difficult to leave the work-station and take the time to enjoy my lunch hour.

I have recently changed my habits and am now utilizing the lunch room forcing myself to get away from it all. Take it from me it is worth it and I find that I am re-freshed and ready to go at it again. - Jason M.

It's your time….. Enjoy

What to do with Mutilated Currency

The following procedures should be used when packing mutilated currency for examination and possible replacement by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing:

· Regardless of the condition of the currency, do not disturb the fragments any more than is absolutely necessary.

· If the currency is brittle or inclined to fall apart, pack it carefully in plastic and cotton without disturbing the fragments and place the package in a secure container.

· If the currency was mutilated in a purse, box, or other container, it should be left in the container to protect the fragments from further damage.

· If it is absolutely necessary to remove the fragments from the container, send the container along with the currency and any other contents that may have currency fragments attached.

· If the currency was flat when mutilated, do not roll or fold the notes.

· If the currency was in a roll when mutilated, do not attempt to unroll or straighten it out.

· If coins or any other metal is mixed with the currency, carefully remove it. Any fused, melted, or otherwise mutilated coins should be sent to: Superintendent U. S. Mint, Post Office Box 400 Philadelphia, PA. 19105.

Mailing Address for Mutilated Currency
Mutilated currency, packed according to the above instructions, should be mailed to:

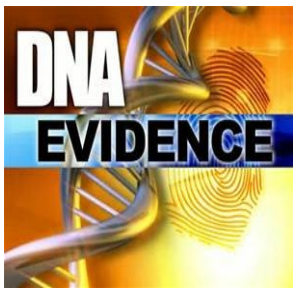
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Office of Currency Standards
P. O. Box 37048 Washington, D. C. 20013

All mutilated currency should be sent by "Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested." Insuring the shipment is the responsibility of the sender.

For cases that are expected to take longer than four weeks to process, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will issue a written confirmation of receipt.

To obtain information about your mutilated currency shipment, contact the Mutilated Currency Division at 1-866-575 -2361 or 202-874-8897.

Triumph usually comes from putting a little more "umph" into your "try". - Howard Crimson



Too Much Touch DNA Evidence Overwhelms a Texas County Crime Lab

Touch DNA testing has proven increasingly effective in solving and prosecuting crimes, from homicides to burglaries, where murderers and thieves leave skin cells on weapons, walls and tools.

But it's almost too much of a success in places like Harris County, Texas – where the total DNA testing caseload has nearly doubled in about five years. Now the county's crime lab is suspending use of touch DNA samples when it comes to property crimes.

"...total DNA testing caseload has nearly doubled in about five years."

There just aren't enough people to test the number of samples, which grows every year, said Roger Kahn, the crime laboratory director for the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

"It does come down to staffing levels," Kahn told Forensic Magazine today. "You certainly have to test the crimes against a person – like a sexual assault or a homicide. [But] the service is growing quickly, and we need to keep up."

Hear More: Optimizing DNA Extraction in a High-Throughput Setting

The logistics have dictated that the lab stop taking all DNA samples, which were being submitted by patrol officers from dozens of agencies in the county (the city of Houston, which is in the county, has its own crime laboratory).

It started off slowly enough. The Harris County forensics laboratory told its agencies in 2007 that it would start accepting any and all DNA samples from crime scenes, including property crimes.

But the case load from those burglaries and other non-violent crimes grew from 856 in 2008, to a projected 3,180 at the current rate this year, said Kahn.

"The reality is, the service is growing very quickly," he said.

Over the same time, the total case load – including the most violent offenses – has increased from 1,979 to a projected 5,671 this year, Kahn added. Property crimes have thus grown to take more than half the total case load, he added.

The success has been striking. Some 800 "hits" have been reached through the property-crime samples since 2008, leading to many prosecutions, Kahn said.

"The CODIS results are overwhelming," he said.

The National Institute of Justice began recommending using DNA for property crimes as early as 2008. Several studies showed that prosecutions were strengthened – and solution rates were higher, when using the new technology, the NIJ announced in 2010.

But the number of cases, after leveling off for several years, have started to grow at a quicker pace this year, leading to the suspension.

By Seth Augenstein, Digital Reporter

Thanks to Bob Reddington —Avondale P.D. for this submittal.

Nov 11, 1885— Dec 21, 1945

Patton on Leadership

#4 The Leadership Commitment
To command an army well a general must think of nothing else.
- Napoleon, quoted by Patton in his West Point notebook

Nine-to-fivers rarely rise above the middling positions in any organization. This does not mean that the successful manager must be a workable grind, but it does mean that he or she never truly stops thinking about the job. A genuine career requires a focused commitment of life energy.

FBI files tell how addicted agent was able to get the drugs

By Peter Hermann January 15

FBI agent Matthew Lowry checked out Item 184 from the evidence room at the bureau's Washington field office on an August morning in 2013. He wrote "to lab" on a log sheet to explain why he was taking drugs that had been seized in an undercover operation dubbed Midnight Hustle.

But it was nearly a year later when he delivered the drug package to the lab. For 10 months, court records show, the heroin had gone unaccounted for and unmissed. When the package made it back to the FBI office in September, it weighed 1.1 grams more than when it had been seized.

Someone had tampered with the contents, prosecutors said later.

The package is one piece of a tale that has unfolded in recent months — the case of an FBI agent who, by his own admission, repeatedly stole heroin from evidence bags for his personal use. In the process, he sabotaged drug cases that he and his colleagues had labored on for months. Prosecutors have dismissed charges against 28 defendants in three cases, many of whom had already been convicted, and they say it could affect 150 other defendants.

The revelations have exposed a system of weak checks and balances that allowed Lowry's thefts and drug use to go undetected for at least 14 months as he worked on a task force focusing on heroin traffickers along the borders of the District, Maryland and Virginia. The problems were discovered only after the agent disappeared after work Sept. 29 and was found by colleagues incoherent, standing next to his disabled bureau car in a construction lot near the Washington Navy Yard.

FBI documents say the agency vehicle, which had run out of gas, was littered with bags of heroin "sliced open and drugs removed," along with a shotgun and a derringer pistol seized during a drug raid but never logged into evidence.

An examination of court records and more than 600 pages of internal FBI documents obtained by The Washington Post — including statements Lowry made to investigators describing his actions — provides a detailed look at his elaborate deception and downfall. The case has prompted an exhaustive review of how drug evidence is handled in one the largest and most prestigious of the bureau's 56 field offices.

"It's shocking that there was such little oversight," said Steven H. Levin, a private lawyer in Baltimore with 10 years' experience as a federal prosecutor, much of it overseeing the violent-crimes section in Maryland. "It's something you would expect to see on a made-for-TV movie. . . . You're thinking, there is no way that could ever happen. And that's what happened."

Lowry, 33, remains the target of a criminal investigation that is being led by federal prosecutors in Pennsylvania to avoid any conflict of interest. He has not been charged with a crime, but he was suspended from his job and entered into drug counseling immediately after he was found in September. His attorney, Robert C. Bonsib, declined to comment for this article, but he has said his client is cooperating with authorities. In the documents, which were provided to defense attorneys in the drug cases under review, Lowry said that he turned to heroin after becoming addicted to prescription painkillers because of an illness and that he started taking heroin from evidence in the summer of 2013.

A spokesman for the FBI's Washington field office, Andrew Ames, issued a statement saying protocols for handling evidence are being tightened. "The incident has brought to light certain vulnerabilities the office is addressing to reduce the likelihood of this type of misconduct happening again."

Levin said Lowry's conduct "should have raised questions right way." He added, "How many people share blame for allowing this to be perpetrated, and for it to continue for as long as it did?"

The system:

Lowry's system was basically quite simple, according to the FBI documents and a summary of his statements to investigators, in which he told them how he took drug evidence from cases with code names including Broken Cord, Family Matters, Tequila Shot and Smellin Like a Rose.

Photographs from FBI evidence files of heroin found in the car assigned to FBI agent Matthew Lowry. Prosecutors dropped drug cases against 28 defendants in four cases based on evidence now deemed tainted. (U.S. District Court)

He checked out drugs from cases he had worked on the pretense of taking them to a lab to be tested for trial. He kept the drugs — sometimes for days or weeks, other times for months — and used a little bit nearly every day, he told investigators. He eventually submitted the drugs to the lab and took them back to the FBI office when testing was done.

Lowry described for investigators a painstaking process used to circumvent rules and procedures and avoid detection, court documents state. He said he forged signatures of supervisors to authorize withdrawals and of colleagues to reseal evidence bags he had cut open, taking time to practice the signatures. He often targeted cases that were already resolved, making it less likely another agent would need the drugs and notice that evidence was missing.

Lowry told investigators he routinely used a filler to repackage bags of heroin. He said he often added an over-the-counter laxative but also used creatine, a chemical commonly mixed with heroin before it hits the street. An FBI memo said Lowry used a digital scale — taken from a drug house — to ensure that he repackaged the drugs at close to their initial weight.

An agent told investigators that Lowry had "stated that the 'system was messed up' and that 'anybody can check out anything,' according to the court papers..

The 21.3 grams of heroin Lowry took from the Midnight Hustle evidence had been bought for $1,800 by an undercover FBI agent in a June 2013 street deal on Rhode Island Avenue NE in the District, according to the court papers.

Lowry checked out the drugs two months later. The FBI documents say he broke the evidence seal on the bag and kept the drugs in the trunk of his Chevrolet Impala, where he stored it "between uses."

On June 30, Lowry took the drugs to the lab, according to the documents. He added Purelax, a powdered laxative, "to offset the weight of the drugs he used," the documents state. He obtained a new evidence bag and an evidence seal.

Continued on Page 9….

Top 10 U.S. Cities for Online Fraud

"Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging."

San Jose, CA — ThreatMetrix, a provider of context-based security and advanced fraud prevention solutions, announced data ranking the top U.S. cities for online fraud. The data reveals Tampa, FL, as the top hot spot for online fraud, and ThreatMetrix found a correlation between top cities for fraud and those home to hosted data centers.

The top 10 list of U.S. cities for online fraud, according to ThreatMetrix, include:

Tampa, FL
New York, NY
Manassas, VA
San Jose, CA
Atlanta, GA
Ashburn, VA
Los Angeles, CA
San Mateo, CA
Chicago, IL
Phoenix, AZ

In its data, ThreatMetrix found that in the majority of the top 10 cities, there were large concentrations of fraud attempts coming from recognized data centers within those cities. Leveraging a sample of data across more than 1 billion monthly transactions, 250 million active user accounts, 3,000 customers, and 15,000 Web sites and mobile applications, the data analyzes transactions in the ThreatMetrix Digital Identity Network that have been rejected due to high risk. While previous ThreatMetrix city-specific research looked at the true origin of fraud attacks, the rankings for this study were determined by which proxies or virtual locations fraudulent transactions appear to come from.

"Cybercriminals are reaping the rewards of high profile data breaches by exploiting hosted servers and using stolen identities to their advantage," said Alisdair Faulkner, chief products officer at ThreatMetrix. "Transactions coming from hosted servers and data centers should automatically set off a red flag to businesses, as cybercriminals use these servers to fraudulently route traffic using stolen data. Instead of hosted servers, authentic customer transactions are likely to come from business, consumer and mobile networks."

Hosted data centers in the U.S. are being used by cybercriminals to actively exploit stolen identities from recent data breaches. More specifically, breached identities are being funneled through rented online servers using stolen credit cards. The top cities for online fraud data represents the intersection of locations that have the largest concentration of data centers with offline identities that have been compromised in recent breaches.

"Data centers and hosted service providers are both unwitting accomplices and victims of online fraud and cyberattacks," said Faulkner. "Criminals set up VPN servers and proxy software at hosted service providers to appear in a location that is consistent with a stolen identity. For example, a fraudster might attempt a banking transaction that appears to be approximately located near the customer's home address. While there are legitimate privacy-enhancing and VPN services also being hosted at these locations, a telltale sign that your data center is being used to monetize stolen identities will be an increase in the use of stolen credit cards to pay for server time."

To keep cybercriminals at bay, hosted data centers should implement a cybersecurity strategy that dynamically assesses the digital identities and devices of the entities they do business with to accurately identify illegitimate usage in real time. The ThreatMetrix Digital Identity Network brings together all aspects of a person's online devices and behavior into one anonymized digital identity — including email addresses, geo-locations, devices and both personal and business personas. The unique identity combines the specific device and persona each individual is using at any given time, at any place to accurately authenticate users in real time.

Police investigate how cocaine pack ended up in granola bar

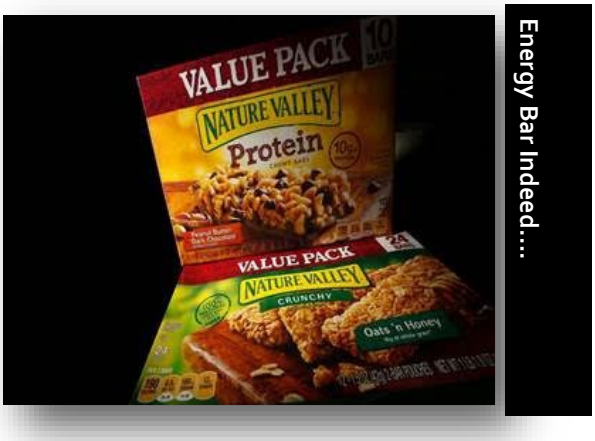
SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio police are investigating how a packet of cocaine ended up inside a wrapped Nature Valley granola bar.

Cynthia Rodriguez of San Antonio says she was eating the bar when a small, green bag emblazoned with dollar signs fell out. Rodriguez contacted manufacturer General Mills Inc., thinking she had won a prize. Company officials told her to call the police.

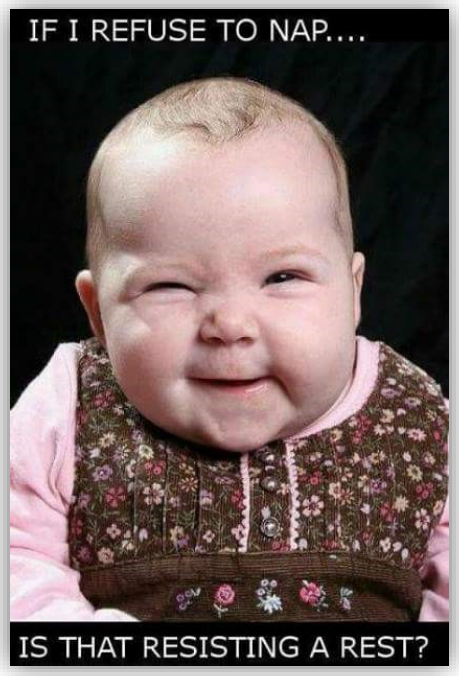
Rodriguez contacted police March 18 and investigators determined the bag contained cocaine.

Sgt. Javier Salazar says authorities are trying to determine how the package got inside the granola bar wrapper.

A General Mills spokesman said Thursday that the Minneapolis-based company is confident the cocaine wasn't packaged with the bar at a company facility. Mike Siemienas declined to say where the bar was produced.



Energy Bar Indeed....



Drone drops drugs in Ohio prison yard, spurring inmate fight

Posted: Aug 04, 2015 9:03 AM Updated: Aug 07, 2015 6:55 AM

Read more: http://www.kpho.com/story/29705794/drone-drops-drugs-in-ohio-prison-yard-spurring-inmate-fight#ixzz3UKSjS6K

MANSFIELD, Ohio (AP) - A drone dropped a package of drugs into a prison yard while inmates were outside, sparking a fight, prison officials said.

The package was dropped July 29 at the Mansfield Correctional Institution, about 65 miles southwest of Cleveland. It contained almost a quarter of an ounce of heroin, over 2 ounces of marijuana and more than 5 ounces of tobacco, JoEllen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, told the Mansfield News Journal (http://ohne.ws/1IDHjVN).

Smith said there have been other instances of drones breaching security and the agency is taking steps to increase awareness and improve drone detection.

According to the department, video footage showed the drone over recreation yards immediately before a fight began. An investigation determined the drone dropped a package intended for an inmate on the north recreation yard, and it was then thrown over a fence to the south recreation yard.

Two corrections officers called for assistance and ordered the inmates to stop fighting, according to the department. They used pepper spray to control the fight.

About 75 inmates in the north recreation yard and 130 on the south recreation yard were taken to the gyms, where they were strip-searched, run through a cell sensor and checked by a clinic. The nine people involved in the fight were placed in solitary confinement. No staff members or inmates were injured, the department said.

Last year, the Mansfield post of the Ohio Highway Patrol increased efforts to watch and catch criminals who throw contraband over prison fences.

Know Your Strongest Skills

Could you quickly describe your skills and abilities in a chance encounter with a CEO? Be the expert on yourself, and improve self-awareness by periodically taking inventory of your skills. Take a look at the free online Dictionary of Occupational Titles (www.occupationalinfo.org). Search your job (or a similar one). Notice the skills listed, and whether there are some you possess but have never considered. Repeat with your past jobs, and a job you'd like in the future. Now examine soft skills. A list can be found at

http://jobsearch.about.com/od/skills/fl/soft-skills.htm. Soft skills are closely linked with emotional intelligence, and those who hire know they can predict job success.

Their importance can't be overstated. Consider all you've gathered about yourself. You now have a renewed understanding of yourself, how to advance your career, and how to sell your most important product—you.

"Energizer Bunny Arrested: Charged with Battery"

S'mores Snack Mix

Ingredients

4 cups Golden Grahams cereal
5 ounces milk chocolate, such as Dove, chopped
1 1/2 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1/4 teaspoon flaky sea salt
1 heaping cup mini marshmallows

Directions

1. Line a half-sheet pan with parchment paper.
2. Melt the chocolate in a double boiler. Meanwhile, spread the Golden Grahams out in a single, even layer covering the surface of the prepped half-sheet pan.
3. Drizzle the chocolate (as evenly as possible) over the cereal. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt and the marshmallows.

Allow to cool completely, then break into pieces and devour or store in an airtight container.

FBI files tell how addicted agent was able to get the drugs continued from page 5..

He forged the signatures of the two agents who had seized the heroin the previous year, and he tried "to mimic the hand-writing on the original sealing sticker," the documents state.

Lowry peeled a bar code off the original evidence bag, put it on the new bag and then sealed the bag with heat. He told investigators that he didn't sign the same drugs out twice because he recognized the forged signatures as his handwriting. A few times, he took guns, drugs or other items from crime scenes and did not log them into evidence.

One agent interviewed by investigators said that "drug evidence is controlled very tightly, as you guys know. There's very stringent rules on how you handle it. They're pretty robust." But, the agent said, "if somebody is actively trying to subvert the process, then they can defeat the rules. And that's apparently what happened in this case."

A high error rate:

An internal audit by the FBI, completed last month, found that every one of the nation's field offices had problems tracking gun and drug evidence and that in some cases, drugs disappeared for months without notice. The Washington field office was among those with the highest error rates; 90 percent of drug evidence examined had been mishandled or had record-keeping problems.

In the Washington field office, a single agent could check drugs out of the lab, even from cases the agent had not worked. All that was needed was a supervisor's signature. When an agent is taking drugs to a lab, protocol dictates that the trip is made immediately, with no stops. But two senior law enforcement officials interviewed said no one checks to ensure that the packages are dropped off. It can take months or even a year for evidence to be tested, so it's not unusual for packets of cocaine or heroin to be gone for long periods of time. Also, the Washington field office is one of the few in the country whose agents take drugs to the lab in their cars.

One FBI official said small variations in the weight of drug evidence after testing are often a result of repackaging. Supervisors are supposed to review agents' quarterly log sheets, documenting progress on investigations and listing drugs signed out from labs. It is unclear whether Lowry's log sheets were thoroughly reviewed.

As a result of the case, the Washington field office "is re-examining certain policies and processes for how drugs are checked out, transported, tracked and checked into the lab," according to a senior law enforcement official who discussed the case on the condition that he not be identified because of rules that forbid publicly discussing pending criminal cases.

In one significant change, two agents will be required to check out evidence, the official said, describing what is considered a best practice. That exceeds requirements in place across the entire bureau.

Michael Bromwich, a retired inspector general with the Justice Department, said even when strict controls are in place, compliance can weaken over time. Requiring two agents to sign out drugs, for example, "is an administrative burden." He said, "I think that over time the controls begin to loosen. It never occurs to them that somebody would make off with the drugs and steal the money."

Cases upended

The Lowry investigation has stunned police and prosecutors, upended their cases and returned men who had admitted or been convicted of felony drug crimes to the streets of the District and Maryland.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Darlene Soltys told a federal judge how hard she worked to "salvage" a drug case Lowry had worked. "My agents invested their hearts and souls in investigating this case," she said during a closed-door hearing in a judge's chambers. The transcript was recently unsealed.

In that hearing, Soltys meticulously explained Lowry's role in the search of an apartment from which 2.2 pounds of heroin was seized. It was a stash and packaging house for drugs, with "powder everywhere," authorities said.

Lowry and another agent moved together through the apartment, with Lowry hanging evidence signs and the other agent taking photographs. The procedure is intended to ensure that no one is alone with evidence. "They moved from room to room to room," Soltys said. But she said agents could not conclusively testify that Lowry was never alone.

It appears that nothing was taken or tampered with during that search, the prosecutor told the judge. But FBI agents also searched the same defendant's house in Accokeek, in Southern Maryland, where they reported finding expensive watches and jewelry, two guns, and $780,000 in cash split into bags. Soltys said the bags were brought to Washington, and Lowry was among the agents who helped recount the money. The prosecutor said authorities initially thought that one bag was missing and that the final count was $130,000 short.

It was determined later, after the case had been dropped, that an honest miscount of the money had occurred, but as investigators sorted through the stolen drug evidence, the count became suspect. Just the suspicion of misconduct tainted the case.

"So now, I can no longer demonstrate the integrity of the money that was seized," Soltys said in the hearing.

Pressed by the judge, she said that evidence in the case gathered at three locations ended up spread out in an office where Lowry and others worked.

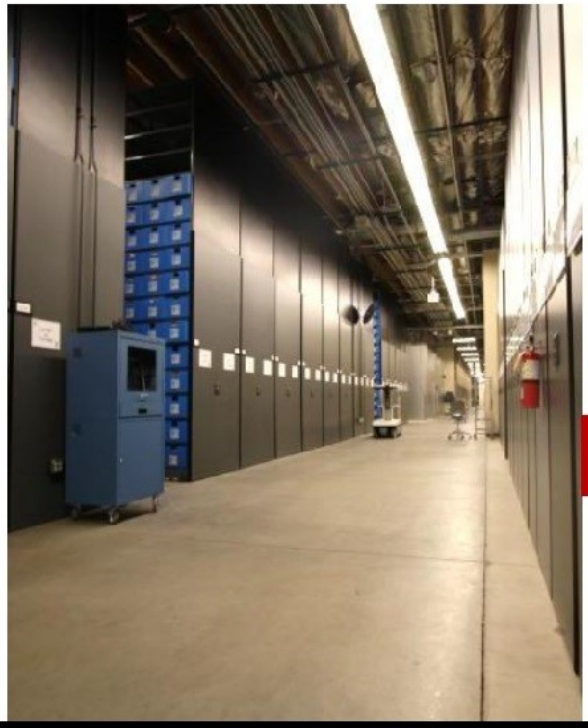
Soltys told the judge that because Lowry "is going to be portrayed as a heroin junkie" and as "drawn to that heroin like moth on a flame," she could not at the time vouch for the money they thought was missing. "Can anybody say that they had their eyeballs on the evidence that we brought back from the safe house?" she said.

She added, "The integrity of my prosecution is undermined by the presence of this bad agent."

The prosecutor told the judge that "it is not a question about saving the FBI the embarrassment. They're already embarrassed by this. The question is, can I, on behalf of the United States of America, stand up and argue to a jury that my evidence is pristine, that there is any doubt that my agents are credible?"

Charges against four drug defendants in the case were dismissed.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/fbi-files-tell-how-addicted-agent-was-able-to-get-the-drugs/2015/01/15/a8206bf6-8203-11e4-81fd-8c4814dfa9d7_story.html



PROPERTY & EVIDENCE STORAGE

TEMPORARY & LONG-TERM

PASS-THRU LOCKERS & REFRIGERATORS | EVIDENCE DRYING CABINETS | SHELVING | TRACKING

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Phoenix, AZ 85040

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(800) 339-7538

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Unlucky Thief Had Car Repossessed While Stealing From Wal-Mart

A Zion man was arrested Tuesday and charged with retail theft after his would-be getaway car was repossessed while he was allegedly trying to steal electronics in a Wal-Mart store, according to Round Lake Beach police.

Che Hearn, 25, faces one count of misdemeanor retail theft involving merchandise valued at less than $300, according to Lake County Circuit Court records. He is scheduled for arraignment Sept. 1.

According to Michael Scott, deputy chief of Round Lake Beach police, officers responded at about 3 p.m. Tuesday to a report of a retail theft at the Wal-Mart store located at 2680 N. Route 83.

Upon arrival, Scott said, officers were informed that a man was observed loading electronics into a shopping basket and leaving the store. After employees confronted the suspect, he dropped the items and fled on foot, police said.

Hearn was later located walking by the side of the road, according to police. When asked why he was walking, he responded that his car had been repossessed while he was at the Wal-Mart, police said. For the love of god. Yes it's supposed to be comical. Guy gets chased out empty handed, finds the repoman taking his car. Funny.

Investigators determined that the repossession company had followed Hearn to Wal-Mart, police said. The car was towed away when he entered the store, giving Hearn the only option of fleeing the scene on foot, police said.

Scott said Hearn, who was called an "Unlucky thief" in a police press release, was released from custody on a recognizance bond after being charged with retail theft.

World Wide Web Resources

HB2371 AAPE Sponsored bill on unclaimed property:
http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=2371&Session_Id=107

Department of Health Services comments on medical marijuana:
http://www.azdhs.gov/prop203/

Find your state legislator, or what district you live in:
www.azleg.gov
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Find Arizona Revised Statutes at :
http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp

Find City Municipal Codes at :
www.municode.com/library/clientlisting.aspx?stateid=3

Find the Arizona Association for Property & Evidence at: http://208.106.133.174/

Find the International Association of Property & Evidence at: http://www.iape.org

Find the Arizona State Retirement System at:
www.azasrs.gov

Find the Arizona Public Safety Retirement System at:
http://www.psprs.com/

Arizona Emergency Information Network
http://www.azein.gov/azein/default.aspx

What else would you like to see here? E-mail me at ***landknews@gmail.com*** Jason M.

Advertising rates for the Lock & Key

Please see our webpage for current rates.

Call any AAPE board member to reserve your advertisement in the next edition of the newsletter.

The deadline for submissions is the 1st day of February, May, August and November.

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DID YOU KNOW...

The geographic center of Arizona is 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Prescott.

In Arizona, it is against the law for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs.

When being attacked by a criminal or burglar, you may only protect yourself with the same weapon that the other person possesses.

No one is permitted to ride their horse up the stairs of the county court house in Prescott, Arizona.

Any misdemeanor committed while wearing a red mask is considered a felony.

There is a possible 25 years in prison for cutting down a cactus