

# Explosives

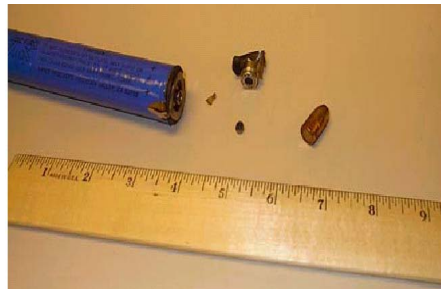
## AMMUNITION + BATTERIES = TROUBLE

**SOURCE: MAGLOCLEN (Mid Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network):**

Two incidents have been reported to the FBI Firearms Training Unit within the past year wherein Agents combined loose, unpackaged, unfired ammunition in the same storage compartment (e.g. carry bag, pocket, gun case, etc.) with batteries from a flashlight or handy-talkie. When the cartridges were positioned so as to contact both battery terminals, one or more cartridges detonated.

(Editorial comment by MACGLOCLEN Analyst Mark Smith - I am guessing that what they mean and do not make clear here is when one end of a cartridge touches a positive terminal end and the other end touches the negative terminal of a different battery, then an electric spark may result with the consequence being the detonation of the bullets powder.)

The resulting detonation caused the cartridge case(s) to rupture, sending metal fragments and case components (case, primer, bullet, and powder particles) in all directions that were potentially capable of causing injury and/or damage. (See below picture). For safety purposes it is suggested all ammo be stored properly.



## MURIATIC ACID USED IN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

A number of incidents have recently been reported in Florida, Maryland and California regarding the use of muriatic acid, commonly used to remove chlorine and fungus from pool walls, in explosive devices. When combined with strips of aluminum in a two-liter soda bottle the acid reacts and builds gas pressure inside the bottle until an explosion occurs. These "soda bottle bombs" are being placed in mailboxes in order to produce explosions. Bombs found in the California area also contained shards of glass, pieces of metal, and nails.

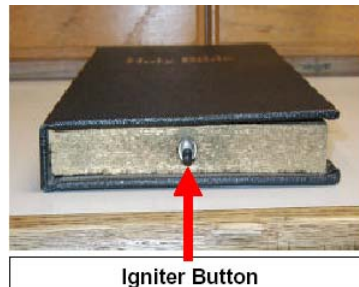
A search of the Internet revealed similar bomb reports made to law enforcement across the country. (Yes, even here in Brunswick.) The search also revealed a simple recipe for a "soda bottle bomb," using a two-liter plastic soda bottle filled a quarter of the way with muriatic acid and aluminum foil strips dropped inside. A variation of this recipe may have been used in all of the above mentioned incidents. Law enforcement should be aware of these occurrences and of the possibility that, because of their small size, these explosives could be placed in areas other than mailboxes.

## BURNING BOOK

The Massachusetts State Police recently reported that books, which have been tweaked to create a fire, were seized on two separate occasions from passengers at the Boston- Logan International Airport. These books, called the “Burning Bible” or the “Hot Book,” can be purchased at magic stores and over the Internet for about \$65. The books are hollow inside and contain a Bunsen Burner igniter which is powered by two 1.5 volt or AA batteries. The books also contain an oil lamp wick held in a tin pan that is soaked with lighter fluid. When the book is closed and the igniter button is pressed, the book then bursts into flames.

These books are intended to be used as a magic trick, and there was no criminal intent on the part of either of the passengers that were found with the books. Although, in Massachusetts, these devices are considered “infernal machines” and are a felony to possess.

The books can become very dangerous if certain parts and chemicals are replaced with others. The explosive triacetone triperoxide (TATP), which is commonly known as acetone peroxide, can be added to the inside of the book. TATP, which is based on the unstable peroxide group of compounds, is one of the most sensitive explosives known to us. Or, the igniter can be replaced with an Electric Blasting Cap (EBC) along with a small amount of C-4. **If these modifications are made, the book could easily be transformed into an explosive device.**



Information originally published by the Massachusetts State Police and re-published by the PSA Unit.

# **Miscellaneous Items of Interest to Law Enforcement Officers**

## ELECTRIC JACKET

This Officer Safety item is an electric jacket. The jacket marketed as the "No-Contact Jacket" is capable of emitting 80,000 volts. According to the advertisement, "The No-Contact Jacket is a wearable defensive jacket created to aid women in their struggle for protection from violence. When activated by the wearer, 80,000 volts of low amperage electric current pulses just below the surface shell of the entire jacket. This exo-electric armor prevents any person from unauthorized contact with the wearer's body.

If an assailant were to grab hold of the wearer the high voltage-shocking exterior would interrupt their neurological impulses, which control voluntary muscle movement. The neuromuscular system would be overwhelmed causing disorientation and loss of balance to occur and of course pain.

The jacket is armed by a key lock and activated by a hand switch (see yellow circle). Once activated, electric arcs and popping noises are produced as a deterrent (see red circle). Primarily sold for self-defense, **Law Enforcement and Security Professionals should be aware of items like these when dealing with suspects.** For greater details on this product visit: <http://www.no-contact.com/>



## CELLULAR PHONE STUN GUN

Calibrepress, a website that tracks concealed or unusual weapons the police should be aware of, advises this CELLULAR PHONE STUN GUN is available on various commercial Internet sites for purchase by the general public. It is designed to look just like a cell phone and includes a safety lock.

One model in particular is the MTD-125, which is boasted as the advanced new product of 2002 by Motodo, Co. in Taiwan and has an output of up to 180,000 volts through it's antenna. The company promotes the device as an effective defense for anyone, including security officers. (The stun gun will NOT function as an operable cell phone.)



### COVERT CUFF KEY

This easy to conceal handcuff key was found recently on a suspect in New Jersey. Originally manufactured for use by officers or prison personnel should they be taken hostage, it is now being found on civilians.

Designed specifically for effective concealment, these keys, which are suspended in a quarter-sized plastic or metal ring, can be easily hidden under watches, in shoes or attached to the inside of belts, waistbands or ballcaps. They are fully functional and can be quickly snapped out for use.



### NEW WEAPON TO WATCH FOR : THE "BLOODSUCKING PEN"

Remove the cap of this ordinary looking pen and you're looking at a SERIOUSLY dangerous weapon specifically designed to drain blood very quickly. The pen's hollow titanium tube/blade is cut at an angle for quick and deep skin penetration. Its shape is designed to aggravate the entrance wound and expedite blood loss. Preferred targets are eyes and ear canals but the "blade" is actually long enough to penetrate a lung or your heart.

Although designed as a last-ditch backup weapon for police officers by a Minneapolis cop and sales are limited to LEOs and military special forces personnel, The Calibrepress Newsline and the manufacturer both feel you need to be aware of this weapon in case one were to accidentally and unexpectedly end up in the wrong hands.



### USE OF CRUISER SEATBELT TO BREAK HANDCUFF CHAIN

A Tallahassee, Florida patrol officer observed a prisoner moving about suspiciously in the back seat of the patrol vehicle while handcuffed. After his delivery to the jail it appeared as though the seat belt had been tampered with. It was later learned that prisoners have been sharing information that a properly applied seat belt can break handcuff chains. The damage shown here was gained with only moderate effort and the highest risk is when prisoners are handcuffed in the front.



### MAGIC MARKER – POT PIPE

An officer at the Brunswick Maine Police Department Took this marker/pot pipe off a kid during a probation check last October. Please keep in mind how resourceful people can be in hiding weapons and contraband. In spite of being converted to a pot pipe – this marker actually worked!





### **CAT HEAD KEY CHAIN**

This key chain is currently being sold on the Internet as a legitimate self defense tool.

When searching suspects please stay alert to keychains shaped like this and don't disregard it as a simple 'key holder'.



## **Flashlight Stun Gun**

**This handy little flashlight is also a 130 db alarm**

**and an 80,000 volt stun baton.**

**•The body is made of fiberglass reinforced plastic.**

**•Uses one 9-volt alkaline battery.**

**inches long (a second model is 16 ½ inches long)**

**Sold thru the Internet at \$50.00**



## PENS THAT AREN'T FOR WRITING

Pens can be another source of danger. Below are an array of 'pens' shown first closed, then open to reveal knives, ice picks and aerosol spray apparatus.



## RAZOR SHARP PLAYING CARDS

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department in Washington State, recently found a unique weapon on a student at their Junior High School.

The card (shown here) is made of metal and is about the size of a playing card. All four corners and sides are razor sharp. When the officer lightly threw it at a board – it stuck in about a quarter of an inch.

A check of the internet found these razor THROWING CARDS can be bought through martial arts supply companies in groups of 5 for about \$30.



## MORE INTERNET GOODIES

## PEPPER SPRAY RING

**This Stunning Ring Can Stun an Attacker!**

This elegant sterling silver and onyx ring is the most discreet personal protection device we offer. It's the Self-Defense Ring, the gorgeous piece of jewelry that releases a blast of the strongest pepper spray on the market with just a flick of your thumb. So there's no fumbling in purse or pocket in the event of an attack; with the Ring on your finger, you're prepared. With the Self-Defense Ring, elegance and confidence are right at hand.

Finger Sizes: 6-10

TS204-6 - Self-Defense Ring (size 6)

TS204-7 - Self-Defense Ring (size 7)

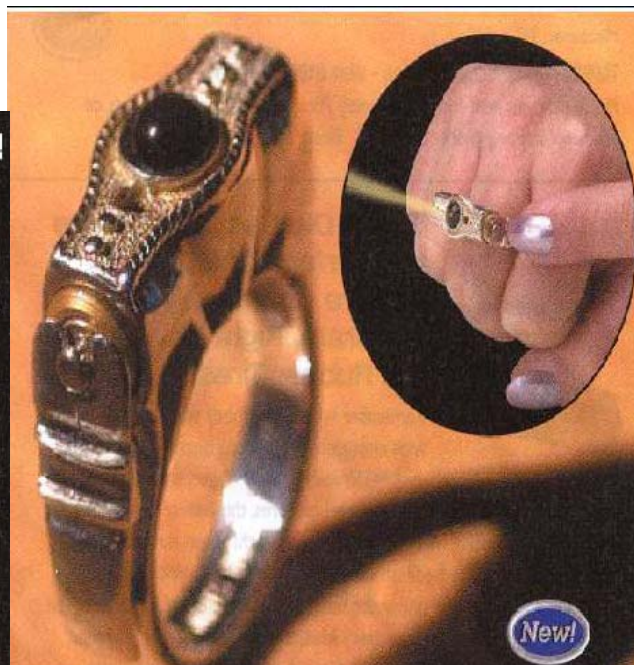
TS204-8 - Self-Defense Ring (size 8)

TS204-9 - Self-Defense Ring (size 9)

TS204-10 - Self-Defense Ring (size 10)

\$69.95 each

TS205 - Refill Cartridge - \$29.95



## COP KILLER GANG ALERT

**Bulletins**

Concealment  
Criminal Intell  
Narcotics  
Officer Safety  
Legal  
Terrorists Info  
TOPS

Bulletin Archives

**Bulletin: Officer Safety**

OS # 03 - 03

Subject: **New violent gang: Cop Killas**

Issued: 04-09-03

From: Criminal Intelligence Unit

Page 1 of 1

Source: New Hampshire D.A., Southeastern Gang Activities Group

A gang known as "Cop Killas" is emerging sporadically in Southeastern Connecticut and its member's range in age from early teens to adults.

Members consider police as rivals and are known to commit various acts of violence and vandalism directed toward police officers, their property their families. Members have been known to drop objects from overpasses onto vehicles.

Regular member colors consist of blue and black beads (6 black and 6 blue) the "killers" wear all black and new members wear blue beads. There may be affiliations with the "Blood Brother Killas" and "Blood brothers."

Photos of gang graffiti, at right, are courtesy Southeastern Gang Activities Group.



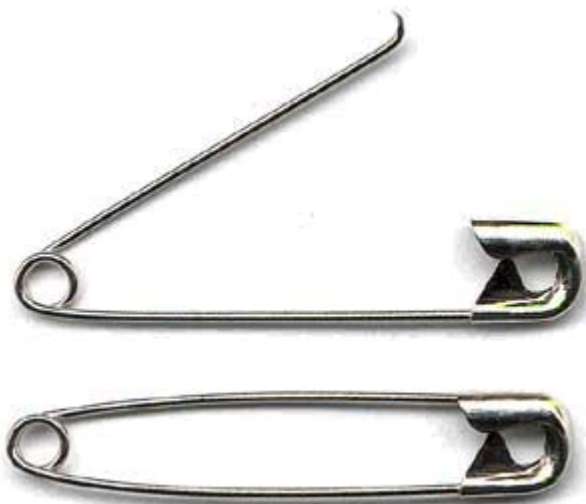
## HIDDEN HANDCUFF KEYS

Many subscribers to the Calibrepress.com site wrote in reference to this easily available belt buckle.

In the closed position it is impossible to see that the tongue is actually a handcuff key. It fits any standard 1 1/2" belt and has been sold on Ebay as well as other websites.



Recently Illinois officers arrested a male subject for narcotics violations. A search of the arrestee disclosed a heavy gauge wire "safety pin" in the arrestee's pocket. The tip of the pin section was bent to a 90 degree angle. Further investigation disclosed that this "safety pin" was devised for opening handcuffs. With only a short time to practice, almost all handcuffs could be opened in seconds. These devices are apparently easily available.





## VIN TAGS FOR SALE

**Source: Colorado Division of Gaming. - (I-451):**

The web site below is offering vehicle identification plates and stickers for any VIN anyone is looking for. The web page quotes, "After 15 years in the VIN plate market, we have mastered methods for reproducing the VIN plate better than anyone in this industry. VIN serial numbers are no longer out of reach of the general public and completely accessible through our website." The web site is <http://www.vin-tags.com/products.php>. It doesn't appear that there is any type of qualifier that these plates/stickers are for "entertainment" only.

## CHOCOLATE MUSHROOMS

**From the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau (via the Maryland State Police, Intelligence Unit):**

Recently, officers from the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau's Drugs and Vice Division executed search warrants for drugs at a private residence. During the search of the residence, officers discovered evidence of chocolate candy, which had been laced with ground-up psilocybin mushrooms, being manufactured on the premises.

The officers seized approximately ten pounds of ground psilocybin mushrooms, 4 pounds of chocolate containing flakes of psilocybin mushrooms, numerous types of plastic chocolate molds, a food processor, and a 25 pound box of A'pee's brand chocolates. The police surmised that the mushrooms were ground in the food processor. Next, regular chocolate was melted and mixed with the mushrooms and then poured into the different molds. Once the chocolate was cooled, it was wrapped in tin foil and then distributed via different package delivery services.



## PETROLEUM JELLY BASED METHAMPHETAMINES

**Info courtesy of MAGLOCLN (Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network):**

Officers in Colorado have had problems reference a substance resembling Vaseline Petroleum Jelly which field-tested positive for the presence of meth on two separate occasions. The intended application for the jelly is unknown, for absorption through the skin or lips, placed under the tongue, smoked, ingested, injected? In each occasion the substance was packaged in a "zip-loc" bag.

Officers should be aware that the substance could also be packaged in a lip balm container. The substance could create a risk to officers conducting searches through transdermal absorption.

## METHAMPHETAMINES IN VITAMIN BOTTLES

**Info courtesy of U.S. Customs:**

Recent intelligence on Guam reveals that methamphetamine are being dissolved into bottles of "ENERVON C" vitamin syrup to avoid detection by Customs officials. The bottles were chosen as a concealment method because the seals can be removed and replaced without appearing to be tampered with. "ENERVON C" Can be found in the Philippines and other areas in Asia.

With the large number of military personnel returning to the states from this area of the world, it is a fair assumption that this method of concealing the drugs will also show up stateside.

## NINJA THROWING SPIKES

**Info courtesy of MAGLOCLN (Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network):**

### Throwing Spikes

These items are marketed as, "Ninja Throwing Spikes". They include an arm sheath made of heavy-duty black webbing and two elastic velcro bands to attach to the users' arm. The spikes are 6 inches long and made of hardened steel for maximum durability. The set (shown here) comes with 5 sharpened spikes and could easily be concealed in the sleeve of a windbreaker or Sports Team jacket. Law Enforcement should be mindful of the potential for concealed weapons such as this. A long sleeve coat may be out of place during the summer months, indicating the potential for concealment.

