

Once the officer is actually confronted with the visible or hidden threat of a gun, a knife, or a physical attack, he has no time for conscious and deliberate evaluation of the suspect's age, race, sex, or emotional condition, or the abstract conceptualizations of comparative punishments.

He has to operate on the evidence instantly apparent to him.

All his conditioning is directed to restraint in the use of firearms--to use only as a last resort. But when this moment of last resort has arrived, the police officer in such a situation knows that the difference between life and death for himself or the person he confronts may be simply a matter of split-second timing. He also must and should consider the danger and menace to life to which the next victim of the fleeing felon might be subjected.

Make no mistake, it is the criminal, not the police officer, who has "named the game"--that is, made the choice that has created the kind of macabre situation in which everybody's life is, or seems to be, on the line--criminal, victim, and police officer.

In pursuit situations, the officer has clear guidelines as to the nature of his authority and responsibility.

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STRESS officers would run less risks, and possibly supporting police would be able to move faster to make arrests, if officers on STRESS assignments were equipped with tiny, invisible radio transmitters. Such transmitters, concealed in the clothing, would be kept "open," and monitored by support crews. Such equipment is available, but the Detroit Police Department does not have a supply for street use, nor the funding with which to acquire them.

There is no simplistic solution to the problem of protecting the police or the citizenry from injury as the result of street activities. We, in the department, have experimented extensively in the area of body-armor, which carries with it the difficulty of maneuver, and does not protect with sufficient certainty.

We have also explored the possibility of mid-range weaponry. Technology has failed to provide for police departments, a weapon which can be utilized to immobilize or to halt a fleeing individual without the possibility of great physical injury or death.

Perhaps the future holds better things, but to date, such weaponry is not adaptable to the type of operations most police officers find themselves involved in on a day-to-day basis. Such weapons were designed for adaption to situations of mass confrontation and disorder and are far too bulky, cumbersome, and uncertain for normal usage.

Thank you.