



## **Holster Retention Issue during Foot Pursuit of Armed Subject**

### **Event Summary**

A specialty unit officer was performing surveillance on violent gang members. One known subject left in a vehicle, and after officers observed traffic offenses (and confirmed the subject had a suspended license), an attempt to stop the subject was made. The vehicle/suspect refused to stop and fled for 6-8 blocks before the driver and passenger bailed out on foot. The passenger was apprehended immediately with little incident by one officer, and the other officer chased the driver on foot.

During the chase, another officer arrived to assist and caused the driver/suspect to run back toward the pursuing officer. Upon encountering the pursuing officer, the subject stopped, reached into his waistband and produced a loaded firearm, pointing it at the officer from 4-5 feet away. The officer realized he didn't have his firearm and immediately went hands-on by tackling and fighting with the subject. At that point, the assisting officer didn't/couldn't shoot because of the entwined officer and subject. Shortly after, the officers were able to subdue the subject, and the subject was taken into custody with minor injuries.

We learned that during the pursuit, the officer's external carrier/entry vest had manipulated (through bumps, turns and stops) the thumb safety [holster] release, and the motion/action of the pursuit caused the officer's gun to fall out of the holster without him knowing. The gun was found between the seat and center console of his patrol vehicle, lodged between the seat-belt latch and console. NOTE: Use extreme caution when wearing external or entry vests while wearing waist type gun belts/holsters.



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LESSONS LEARNED BECOME LESSONS APPLIED

## Lessons Learned

- Officers should always be cognizant of the location of their sidearm (with regular retention checks) and ensure their sidearm is in working condition.
- Officers should ensure their retention holster is properly positioned on their duty belt and ensure their position and equipment within the patrol vehicle does not compromise the holster.
- External ballistic vest carriers should be tested, approved, and properly fitted to ensure they do not inhibit an officer's performance or otherwise impact their equipment, such as the holster.

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