



The year is off to a busy start! We are dealing with several internal policies within Fresno Sheriff's Department, which is keeping us very busy.

Officer Down- Galt Police Department

Each time I receive a notification from PORAC regarding an officer being killed, it triggers immediate heartbreak. I am reminded of that dark day on February 25, 2010, when Joel Wahlenmaier was gunned down in Minkler. I remember how I felt to hear what happened and the long painful journey ahead for family, friends, coworkers and the entire community.

As many of you are aware, an officer was killed while on duty in Northern California. Officer Kevin Tonn, a 4 year veteran of the Galt Police Department was gunned down while responding to a burglary call at an apartment complex. Tonn was a K9 officer working day shift patrol, when he was called upon to search for a suspect.

When he arrived, he was flagged down by occupants inside the complex. Witnesses reported the suspect ran from the area, so Officer Tonn got a description of him. He left the complex to search for the suspect, knowing other officers were on their way.

Officer Tonn spotted a person walking alongside railroad tracks who matched the description. He drove up to the suspect and made contact with him. The suspect, knowing he was caught, pulled out a handgun and fired at Officer Tonn - - fatally wounding him. Other officers who heard Officer Tonn had located the suspect, assisted with the contact, and in the process, witnessed the homicide.

Those officers engaged in a gun battle with the suspect, when he ended up taking his own life.

At the young age of 35, Tonn had many accomplishments and life experiences. Since his tragic death, we have learned he was a military veteran, a New York Firefighter, a medic, and a good friend and son.

Many of the circumstances surrounding Officer Tonn's death, reminded me of the call Erik Telen and Brent Stalker responded to in Dunlap in 2001. It was a call that could be considered high frequency, low risk. It was reported as trespass call- a

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misdemeanor crime, but nonetheless, one that homeowners and residents often see as an intrusion in their safety and property rights.

Erik and Brent followed the suspect to a residence where they found forced entry and ultimately a burglary. We all know Erik was killed inside the residence from gunfire, by another cowardly suspect.

These two tragedies are similar in the way that the officers were attempting to track down the suspect to make an arrest for a crime. They were proactive and made extra efforts to catch the suspect. Both were gunned down before that arrest could be made.

The suspects actions ended differently, however, both had something in common - they took from us a friend, co-worker, and family member.

These acts will not stop. History proves this to us constantly. We will not stop attending funerals for our law enforcement family across this great State. We have to remember these officers and what they lived for. We have to remember the dangers this job brings our way. We have to have our head on straight when going to work each day and never being complacent in our day to day jobs. Each of us know there is the risk that when we leave our home each day we may not be returning.

In my fifteen years in this agency, five officers have been killed. Something I never thought I would deal with, but it's the reality.

Each and every one of you I work for day in and day out to ensure we have the best working conditions, great pay and benefits, and tell our stories about the different jobs we do to the communities we serve. I want to ensure each of you that I carry your torch each day and take that very serious.

Please be careful each day you go to work. Never take anything lightly. Stray away from the drama in the workplace and never let your guard down. Remember that this Association works for its members and we have your best interests in mind.

Again our hearts and prayers go out to Officer Kevin Tonn, Galt Police Department -
- End of Watch January 15, 2013.

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Debt Ceiling Extension and Sequestration Fight

The fight in Washington over the fiscal cliff was resolved on *New Year's Day*, but the broader compromise on a comprehensive deficit reduction plan remains elusive. With both the debt ceiling and the sequestration postponement due to expire on or near *March 1*, the fight over deficit reduction will again dominate the congressional agenda leading up to that time.

Debates over both of these issues will hit a fever pitch in *mid-February* as we approach the latest Washington deadlines that, if not met, could have devastating consequences for the economy. The fight over the size and scope of government and whether it should be fueled by more revenue (Democrats) or less revenue (Republicans) is a philosophical battle of great proportions. It will continue to be negotiated, though a compromise seems increasingly difficult as the political rhetoric escalates and both sides narrow their willingness to give.

There currently is not a clear pathway to success in resolving a debt ceiling extension and a continued delay of the planned sequestration. *However, a path will have to be found by those in the two parties who still have a little more compromise left in them. This debate will not be pretty.*

Government Shutdown? The federal government is currently running on a budget that expires on *March 27*. The last six months of the fiscal year (ending *September 30*) will have to be funded, which will require an agreement by the Republican-controlled House, Democratic-controlled Senate and President Obama.

You can see where we are going here. The same spending issues that have bedeviled the two parties will rear their ugly heads again, and leading up to this date *there will be threats of a government shutdown if no agreement is reached by March 27*. This will likely be yet another standoff situation where the two sides will fight over appropriate budget levels for federal agencies, and like the preceding bullet point, there is no clear path forward to resolve this at this time.

If spending levels are not included in a broader deal on sequestration and the debt limit, brace yourself for another brinksmanship-type vote that will not make anyone happy.

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Early Warning System

My last newsletter I addressed the issue of Administrative Order #1806, Early Warning System that was put out by the Sheriff on December 31, 2012, and as stated by the Sheriff, per a court order.

As stated previously the FDSA did have any discussion in regards to the EWS system. So when the phone calls and emails started to flow in from some of you asking me what this is all about, I was unable to answer any of these questions because I myself did not know what this was.

Subsequently, I read the policy along with the settlement - - which just off the surface contradicted what the policy stated. I contacted our legal counsel so they were able to review the information.

They stated as I agreed, this policy was not discussed with labor and is truly not open to implementation without an agreement with labor. Secondly, reading the within the settlement (listed on the front of the document) WE (FDSA Board of Directors) does not believe meets the necessary threshold of needing to be implemented as per the departments direction.

There have been a few agencies policies reviewed that also have early warning systems as well. Although we have not seen the policies, the departments stance was we (FSO) is merely replicating theirs.

FDSA reviewed the Fresno Police Departments Early Alert System, which is addressing the same concerns as what the Early Warning System is attempting to address. The main difference between the two agencies policies - - Early Warning System is more discipline based, whereas Early Alert System (Fresno PD) is more preventative and corrective based.

Needless to say, labor and the department are still pretty far apart on any agreement in the future on Early Warning System. FDSA is not opposed to the idea, however, having it discipline based is not the ideal situation for the employee. Stay tuned for more on this.

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PORAC Board Meeting 01/25/13

I traveled to Sacramento representing all of you on January 25, 2013 for the quarterly PORAC meeting held at PORAC HQ.

Every board member was in attendance during this time. We were briefed by President Ron Cottingham, followed by Vice President Mike Durant.

Ron's message was very clear in regards to the latest push on gun control. As of now, PORAC is sitting back and waiting to see which way this issue may go. A position has not been officially taken, but the philosophy PORAC has always brought to the table has been to protect your 2nd amendment right to bear arms.

AB 48 (Skinner) is a bill dealing with ammunition in regards to reporting requirements. PORAC is supporting, Assemblywoman Skinner who is authoring the bill for presentation by February 22, 2013. One piece of the bill already being discussed and written is the exemption of law enforcement officers, both active and retired. This language has been included specific to the requests from PORAC. I want to thank Ron for the push along with our PORAC lobbyists Aaron Read and Randy Perry for their diligent work on this bill.

VP Mike Durant reported the ongoing efforts by a competing Law Enforcement Association, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) trying to recruit associations out of PORAC into their group. This has been going on for quite some time. PORAC is not going to stand idle and allow this unprofessional type of bullying to go on. PORAC is the leader in benefits, lobbying efforts, and legislation for law enforcement here in California. PORAC is also making a very big name for itself throughout the nation as the leader in law enforcement organized labor. FDSA will standby with PORAC and the efforts of Vice President Durant to defend our interests from this group.

Also, during the meeting, I was advised that I will be accompanying PORAC on its annual lobbying trip to the Nations Capital on March 9-13, 2013. This is the time PORAC travels to Washington DC to lobby the Congressional and Senate delegation from California for our national interests. This trip will be jam packed with meetings with many people including the US Attorney General, COPS funding administrators, Homeland Security and other groups who offer grants for law enforcement functions. This is truly an honor to travel across the nation while representing the FDSA and PORAC. I will have more on this to report for my April Newsletter.

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FDSA

FRESNO DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

We wrapped up our meeting in the afternoon after discussing budget, and other political activities happening in Sacramento. The Governors FY 13/14 budget is going to be an interesting one with the passage of Proposition 30 and the streamlined funding coming to all County Sheriff's. I will have more as to the impacts as budget talks progress, but yes we are already talking about budget!

Please take care of one another out there.

-Eric

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

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