

Third Edition

High-Risk Patrol

Reducing the Danger to You



Gerald W. Garner

HIGH-RISK PATROL

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gerald W. Garner, a veteran of more than forty-six years in law enforcement, is chief of police for the city of Greeley, Colorado. He holds a master's degree in Administration of Justice and has authored ten books on a variety of law enforcement subjects. He has published more than 200 magazine and journal articles on law enforcement topics, many of them dealing with the subject of officer safety and street survival. He teaches widely on policing.

Garner's considerable law enforcement experience spans three states and ranges from time spent as a patrolman and street sergeant to roles as an academy director and watch commander. He also has served as a field training officer and field training supervisor. He additionally has worked as a consultant on police procedural and use of force issues.

Third Edition

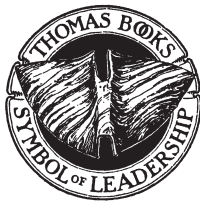
HIGH-RISK PATROL

Reducing the Danger to You

By

GERALD W. GARNER

*Police Chief
Greeley Police Department
Greeley, Colorado*



CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER, LTD.
Springfield • Illinois • U.S.A.

Published and Distributed Throughout the World by

CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER, LTD.
2600 South First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

This book is protected by copyright. No part of
it may be reproduced in any manner without written
permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

© 2016 by CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER, LTD.

ISBN 978-0-398-09111-8 (paper)
ISBN 978-0-398-09112-5 (ebook)

First Edition, 1990
Second Edition, 2011
Third Edition, 2016

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2016010210

*With THOMAS BOOKS careful attention is given to all details of manufacturing
and design. It is the Publisher's desire to present books that are satisfactory as to their
physical qualities and artistic possibilities and appropriate for their particular use.
THOMAS BOOKS will be true to those laws of quality that assure a good name
and good will.*

Printed in the United States of America
UBC-R-3

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Garner, Gerald W., author.

Title: High-risk patrol : reducing the danger to you / by Gerald W. Garner,
Police Chief, Greeley Police Department, Greeley, Colorado.

Description: Third edition. | Springfield, Illinois : Charles C Thomas,
Publisher, Ltd., [2016] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016010210 (print) | LCCN 2016015769 (ebook) | ISBN
9780398091118 (pbk. : alk. paper) | ISBN 9780398091125 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Police patrol. | Police--Violence against--Prevention. | Law
enforcement--Safety measures. | Police patrol--United States.

Classification: LCC HV8080.P2 G37 2016 (print) | LCC HV8080.P2 (ebook) |
DDC 363.2/32--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016010210>

*Dedicated to the officers
Who have died,
And in their dying,
Helped others to live.*

SPECIAL NOTE

This book presents practical, proven, commonsense suggestions for responding to the dangers that threaten police officers. They work. But there are alternative means for handling these hazards that under certain circumstances may also work. As a result, the author and publisher accept no responsibility for harm to persons or property resulting from utilization of tactics and procedures suggested in this text.

PREFACE

- A big-city uniformed patrolman, 15 years on the job, stops a vehicle containing a known robbery suspect. He saunters up to the driver's door and is fatally shot for his carelessness.
- A sheriff's deputy in a rural Texas county chases down a speeder on an isolated country road. After contacting the driver, he turns to get his summons book from his patrol car. This momentary lapse is all the wanted fugitive needs to shoot the deputy in the back. The officer dies.
- Two officers – longtime car partners – take a drunk into custody and place him, unsearched and unhandcuffed, in the car seat behind them. Each relies on the other to do something neither actually does. And both die needlessly when the drunk produces a handgun.
- A rookie officer stops by the corner drugstore for a quick purchase. Her mind in neutral and her thoughts of officer safety suppressed, she walks into a robbery in progress. Stunned, she draws her weapon without clear-cut plan or purpose. She is subsequently killed by a shotgun-wielding lookout she never even saw.

American police officers are killed – murdered – in the line of duty. Officers have been dying with frightening regularity on the paved streets, dirt roads, cluttered apartment landings, and spotless living room carpets of the nation for a long time now. They were dying violent deaths long before anyone thought about formal, organized training in something called officer survival.

Unfortunately, they are still dying violently today even after the last three decades of long-overdue emphasis on police field survival skills. It is obvious that more work – a lot more work – will be needed if the nation's peace officers are to reach their potential as guardians of the public while they simultaneously protect themselves from criminal violence. Fortunately, it is a job that *can* be done. It must be.

This book goes a long way toward helping the individual police officer do that vital job. It is designed and intended to help him or her *survive*. It provides a general orientation for survival, and it details the specifics the intelligent police professional must master to survive the many types of potentially risky situations he will be exposed to over a career. As it must if it is to be really

helpful, the book delves into the down-and-dirty, nuts-and-bolts details of everything from searching a prisoner to searching a building; arresting a 300-pound outlaw biker or a surly teenager. The volume is painstakingly thorough in its approach to officer survival. The officer who reads it can afford to be no less thorough as he applies its practical information to the street situations he encounters.

A printed narrative, no matter how careful and comprehensive, can only do so much. It can emphasize important principles in such areas as firearms use and self-defense, but it cannot teach complete physical skills, and it cannot instill nearly automatic motor responses. As a result, the wise student of officer survival will supplement this book with personal exposure to skilled, hands-on training in such areas as marksmanship, pursuit driving, comealongs, and other physical tactics and techniques. By meshing that experience with what he reads here, the safety-conscious police practitioner can become the skilled professional he must be to survive and stay healthy, both physically and emotionally. He can, in sum, drastically reduce the personal risks of high-risk patrol.

Today's peace officer must do more. He is expected to solve society's problems without so much as hurting an offender's feelings. In an era where peacekeepers are required to be highly transparent and accountable (certainly these are good things) in all of their actions every use of force by a law enforcement officer will be closely scrutinized. That is one reason why it is important that today's officer – you – has access to every viable tactic and technique that may prevent the need for the use of force in the first place. An equally important reason is that this same officer always must be able to go home safely at end of watch. This book offers information on many of those tactics and techniques. Its ultimate goal is to see to it that *everyone goes home*.

G.W.G.

INTRODUCTION

The third edition of *HIGH-RISK PATROL* piles additional, potentially life-saving information atop that provided in the first two editions. It recognizes that now more than ever the public has huge and occasionally unrealistic expectations about what you, the law enforcement officer, can do to fix the ills of society. But the book also emphasizes that the phrase “everyone goes home” includes you, the peace officer with all of those heavy-duty responsibilities borne on your broad shoulders.

This book has a singular purpose: to help you stay safe. Twenty-one chapters provide time-proven advice for safely handling everything from domestic violence calls to ambush attacks. Some “extra” dangers are also discussed, including off-duty confrontations and the mental and emotional hazards of your difficult job.

The book recognizes that you are highly pragmatic in your approach to your life and your very important job. As a consequence, each chapter is long on practical information and short on theory. Every chapter concludes with a quick and concise summary contained in a “Risk Reduction Checklist.”

Also provided at the close of each chapter are real-life examples of officers killed. These are culled from the annual “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted” reports compiled and published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each tragic case makes a point by way of grim example. Each one is intended to help you avoid mistakes that have felled your brothers and sisters. Additional samples of tragedies and what may have led to them are provided in the Appendix at the close of the text. More examples have been added to this third edition.

Key points for surviving on the street appear in more than one chapter. This is intentional, inasmuch as something so central to officer survival as “obtain necessary backup help” is relevant to the safe handling of more than one kind of assignment.

Chapter 1 is intended to help you navigate the “guardian versus warrior” discussion preoccupying law enforcement today. Chapter 2 defines just what high-risk patrol is and lays bare the mistakes that can kill you. Chapter 3 offers an in-depth explanation of the survival skills that can help you survive on the

street, while Chapter 4 explores the skills needed to stay safe on all kinds of vehicle contacts.

Chapter 5 offers practical advice for safely handling a disturbance call. Chapter 6 provides direction for making it in safety through the dangers of a domestic violence intervention. Chapter 7 furnishes some to-the-point advice for detecting and safely handling under the influence people. Chapter 8 offers guidance for staying safe while dealing with the suspicious person or incident.

The intricacies of burglaries and structure searches are examined in Chapter 9, while the dangers of barricades and hostage-takers are covered in Chapter 10. “Man with a Gun” calls are detailed in Chapter 11 and the tactics and techniques of a vehicle pursuit are discussed in Chapter 12. Meanwhile, Chapter 13 contains experience-proven guidelines for surviving a stickup in progress, and Chapter 14 furnishes advice for responding to increasingly-prevalent and too-often-deadly ambush attacks. Chapter 15 provides newly-revised and up-to-date suggestions for working with the emotionally disturbed or mentally ill person in a manner calculated to assure that everyone gets home safely.

The book’s Chapter 16 identifies some special risks and recommends some special responses and is followed by a chapter providing important guidance for surviving an off-duty confrontation. Chapter 18 looks at the dangers and safety measures involved with handling prisoners, while Chapter 19 goes into the hazards of today’s terroristic threats and suggests effective responses to them. Chapter 20 is intended to help you reduce the mental and emotional risks of your sometimes dangerous job. Finally, Chapter 21 exposes the danger to you of accidents encountered in the performance of your duties and stresses how they can be prevented.

The information contained in this volume is as current as today’s news and as relevant as the eulogy for a fallen comrade. This is HIGH-RISK PATROL. Its goal is REDUCING THE DANGER TO YOU. That means everyone goes home.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Introduction</i>	ix
 Chapter 1. GUARDIAN OR WARRIOR?	 3
Taking a Hard Look at Training and Culture	4
Learning from Others	10
Slowing Things Down	10
Full-time Guardian, Part-time Warrior	12
A Risk Reduction Checklist for the Guardian-Warrior	13
 Chapter 2. WHAT IS HIGH-RISK PATROL?	 15
What the Statistics Say.	15
Caution vs. Paranoia.	17
Mistakes to Avoid	18
A Risk Reduction Checklist for High-Risk Patrol.	19
 Chapter 3. PERSONAL PREPARATIONS FOR RISK REDUCTION.	 21
Survival Skills	22
Your Firearms Can Save You	28
Prisoner Control Is Vital.	31
Put Some Light on the Subject	33
Search in Safety	35
Cover and Communicate	37
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Your Personal Preparations.	44
 Chapter 4. VEHICLE STOPS AND CONTACTS	 46
Unknown-Risk Stops and Contacts	47
High-Risk Stops and Contacts.	52

Special Vehicles, Special Threats	57
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Vehicle Stops and Contacts	59
Chapter 5. DEFUSING DISTURBANCES	61
Reducing the Danger	62
Bar Brawls	66
Large-Scale Disturbances	69
Bringing It All Together	75
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Defusing Disturbances	75
Chapter 6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	78
Be Aware of the Cycle	78
Steps for Intervention	79
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Domestic Violence	85
Chapter 7. UNDER THE INFLUENCE PEOPLE	88
Look for the Signs	88
Don't Underestimate the Danger	90
Some Safety Guidelines	92
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Under the Influence People	95
Chapter 8. SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND INCIDENTS	97
Start with a Plan	98
Making Contact	99
Checking for Weapons.	100
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Suspicious Persons and Incidents.	103
Chapter 9. BURGLARIES AND STRUCTURE SEARCHES	105
Gathering Information.	106
Ground Rules for a Safe Search	109
Safety Steps for Searching.	112
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Burglaries and Structure Searches	120

Chapter 10. BARRICADES AND HOSTAGE-TAKERS	122
Types of Offenders	123
Your Options	124
Steps to a Solution	126
What If You Become a Hostage?	136
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Barricades and Hostage-Takers	138
Chapter 11. “MAN WITH A GUN” CALLS	140
Getting the Picture	140
Planning for Success	141
Achieving a Safe Surrender.	144
A Risk Reduction Checklist for “Man with a Gun” Calls	145
Chapter 12. VEHICLE PURSUITS	147
Bad Things Can Happen	147
Be Conscious of Your Adrenaline	149
Follow the Basics	149
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Vehicle Pursuits.	153
Chapter 13. STICKUP IN PROGRESS	155
Asking the Key Questions	156
Planning for Survival	157
Off-Duty Dangers.	159
The Final Confrontation	161
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Stickup in Progress	162
Chapter 14. AMBUSH ATTACKS	164
The Concept of Ambush	164
Mental and Physical Preparations	165
Implementing a Response	167
Special Ambush Threats	170
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Ambush Attacks	173
Chapter 15. EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND MENTALLY ILL PERSONS.	175
What to Look For.	176

Suicides Are Dangerous	178
Some Suicide Warning Signs	180
Some Do's and Don't's of Suicide Intervention	180
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Emotionally Disturbed and Mentally Ill Persons	181
Chapter 16. SPECIAL DANGERS, SPECIAL RESPONSES	183
Exotic Weapons.	183
Sharp and Pointed Weapons	185
Officer Down Responses	187
Vicious Animals	189
Infectious Diseases	190
Wounds and Injuries	192
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Special Dangers, Special Responses.	195
Chapter 17. OFF-DUTY CONFRONTATIONS.	197
An Ever-Present Danger	198
Criminal Confrontations	199
Mistaken Identity Dangers	202
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Off-Duty Confrontations	205
Chapter 18. PRISONER CONTROL AND TRANSPORT	207
Approach and Positioning	209
Handcuffing and Searching.	211
Transport	216
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Prisoner Control and Transport	218
Chapter 19. TERRORISTIC THREATS.	220
Who Are They?.	221
How Do They Operate?	223
Dealing with the Threat	225
Bombs and Booby Traps	230
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Terroristic Threats	231

Chapter 20. REDUCING YOUR EMOTIONAL RISKS.	233
The Stats Are Not Good	233
The Symptoms of Stress	234
What Can You Do About It?	236
Some Preventative Measures	240
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Reducing Your Emotional Risks.	243
Chapter 21. ACCIDENTS KILL COPS, TOO.	245
Traffic Accidents Are Deadly.	246
Lifesaving Tips for Law Enforcement Driving.	249
Other Ways to Die Accidentally	252
Trust Your Good Judgment.	253
A Risk Reduction Checklist for Avoiding Accidents.	254
<i>Appendix.</i>	257
<i>Index.</i>	267

HIGH-RISK PATROL

Chapter 1

GUARDIAN OR WARRIOR?

You cannot have too many tools for doing your job in safety. Some of those tools you hang on your belt when you go to work. Many more of them are the “tricks of the trade” that you have amassed through education, training, experience, and plain common sense. Some of those “tricks” you may have learned from the shared experiences of your peers.

Today more than ever some people are questioning what police do and why they do it. Most Americans have not served as law enforcement officers and they simply do not grasp the dangers and complexities of the job. But they “know” when something an officer is shown doing on television or the Internet looks excessive or otherwise inappropriate to them.

Today you do your difficult job in a fishbowl. That does not mean that you cannot do what you need to do to protect yourself. To the contrary, you *must* do whatever is required to remain safe. This book will explore in depth what to do and how to do it in order for you to survive on and off the job. It also will emphasize the importance of de-escalation in an effort to assure that a situation does not require the application of force unless that is the only reasonable option.

Recent years have seen a number of highly-publicized incidents in which law enforcement officers have used deadly force against unarmed individuals. Yet other incidents have seen well-intentioned officers use lethal force on persons armed with replica weapons or weapons deemed by vocal critics as “not lethal enough” to merit a potentially fatal police response. The old cry of “why didn’t you shoot him in the arm” (or leg, or hand, or finger, or whatever) has also resurfaced from some elements of a television-watching public conditioned to see the Lone Ranger bloodlessly shoot a gun out of a bad guy’s hand.

Some of the major news media organizations have at times picked up the cop critics’ demands for more transparency, more accountability, and less violence from police, particularly where racial or ethnic minorities are involved. Politicians have, in some cases, joined in the hue and cry and helped pass what they have termed “police reform” legislation. In some cases, these quick-fix laws have been aimed at addressing highly-complex issues.

Setting aside the over-heated rhetoric for a moment, you as a police professional likely would agree that there is a very real need for an honest and in-depth examination of many of law enforcement's long-established practices aimed at dealing with a threatening or violently-attacking offender. You are well aware that some things done in law enforcement, as in many professions, are done that way simply because seemingly they always have been. In an effort to arm you with the very latest and most practical tools for keeping you safe on the job, this chapter will look at some of those "things" and how some of them might be modified to serve you and the community you protect even more effectively.

There are significant efforts underway to re-engineer how police use of force training is done in this country. Take any opportunity you can to contribute to them. Learn as much as you can. You will be all the safer for your work.

TAKING A HARD LOOK AT TRAINING AND CULTURE

To a large extent you are the product of your law enforcement training. Since you entered the recruit academy you have been drilled in tactics, techniques, and attitude intended to assure that you function effectively and safely as a law enforcement professional. Your trainers also have done their best to help equip you to complete your career as a peace officer – whether it amounts to four years or 40 – alive and in good health, both physically and emotionally.

You doubtlessly have supplemented your early training with in-service and specialized refresher schooling. To this you have added the on-the-job experience you have amassed in your career to date. You have learned a lot about staying safe. You are continuing to learn more by the day.

One of the realities about life (and law enforcement) is that change is both inevitable and constant. Weapons and threats change. So do your tactics designed to defeat them when they are aimed at you. Laws change. So do public expectations. All of this can make for some very interesting moments for you, the man or woman with a badge who is expected to go out and solve society's worst ills, day and night, 365 days a year.

If you have been in law enforcement for even a few years you already have noticed the ever-present swinging of the proverbial pendulum. The public you serve has always expected you to protect them from evildoers. But today more than ever much of that same public demands that you do it while assuring that the offender does not have his feelings – or anything else – hurt in the process. Most of those citizens also do not want for you to be hurt, either. Increasingly, however, they are concerned about the welfare of the offender. That is the atmosphere in which you labor. Your safety requires that you recognize that reality. It is an environment that holds much danger for the