



The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

# KCPD to implement PIT maneuver

**Department is changing policy in hopes of ending car chases sooner**

The KCPD is training on a new way to stop high-speed police pursuits.

While it's new for Kansas City, other law enforcement agencies – especially on the coasts – have been using the PIT Maneuver for years. It originated more than 30 years ago, with the PIT acronym varying to mean Precision Immobilization Technique or Pursuit Intervention Technique. At KCPD, it will be called the TVI: Tactical Vehicle Intervention.

“It’s just never come to the Midwest,” said Officer Mike Moats of the Driver’s Training Section, who has been pushing for KCPD to adopt the move for eight years.

Chief Richard Smith decided now is the time.

“People can be fearful because it’s a deadly force issue,” Officer Moats said. “If you hit somebody at a high rate of speed, there’s a risk of serious injury or death.”

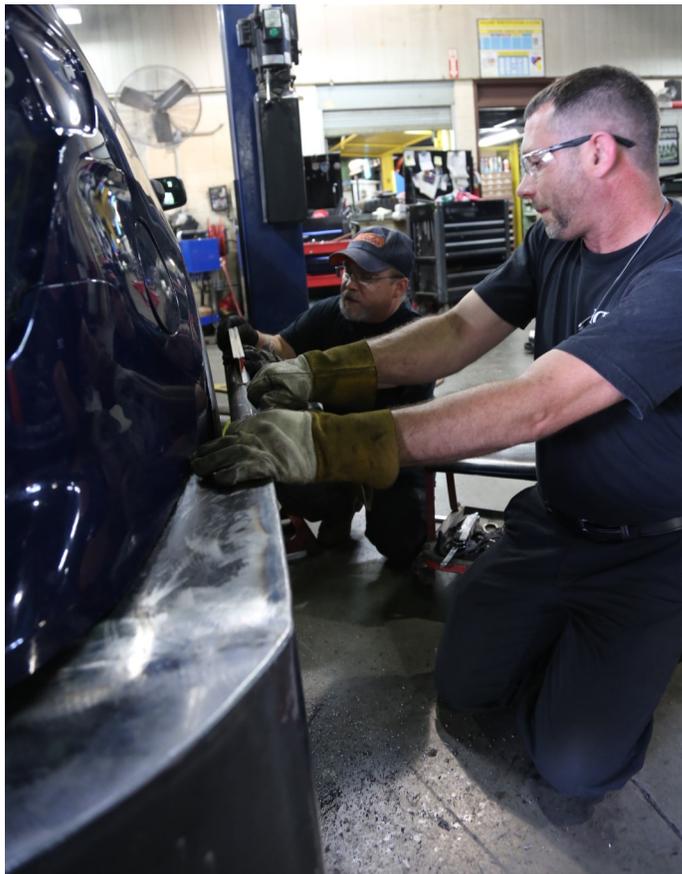
That’s why the Driver’s Training Section wants to provide the Tactical Enforcement Officers who will be using the TVI maneuver with the best training possible.

An article from the International Association of Chiefs of Police defines the PIT or TVI maneuver as a way to disable fleeing vehicles and remove the aggressor from the vehicle.

“When conducting a PIT maneuver, an officer applies lateral pressure to the rear quarter panel of the target vehicle so it spins out and stops,” the article states.

Officer Moats said the goal is to end police chases quickly and safely.

“We want to minimize any type of danger that involves the public,” he said. “... The TVI maneuver is ideal for chasing serious felony subjects. We need to end this chase so it doesn’t continue on ...



**Fleet technicians Adrian McCracken and Charlie Allen had to custom-design bumpers and frames for PIT maneuver training vehicles that officers can use.**

when we start running red lights, and going through traffic intersections – that’s what we’re trying to avoid. It’s just a way to control the police pursuit and reduce risk.”

Officer Moats and the other Driver’s Training Section instructors went to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glencoe, Colo., to learn the technique and learn how to teach it to others. Officer Moats already had attended the training several years ago but went back for a refresher. They’ll start teaching classes in October. Initially, only Tactical Enforcement officers will be using the TVI maneuver. Employing the new technique isn’t just about the training. It’s also about the equipment. Although they may look like push bumpers, what are currently on the front of KCPD patrol vehicles are more like accessory racks, said Assistant Fleet Operations Manager Mark Crawford.

He and several other Fleet Operations Unit members traveled to the Kansas Highway Patrol’s facility in Salina to see what kind of bumpers they use and how they install them. KCPD will be going with Thunderstruck TVI Push Bumpers. They’re outfitting Tactical Response Team officers’ Ford Crown Victorias and SUVs with the new bumpers, about 20 in all.

But preparing vehicles for training was a whole other matter. Those bumpers would have to take being hit over and over again. KCPD mechanics Charlie Allen and Adrian McCracken were up to the task of fabricating training push bumpers from

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# Retired officer crafts ceremonial batons

When officers retire, they hang up their badge, but what happens after that? For retired Officer Dewey Ellis, he traded his badge and gun for a hammer and nails.

One visit to Ellis' workshop can tell you he has found another passion: woodworking. Upon entering, the sight of tools and supplies fill the room, along with several different pieces of equipment. Little pieces of wood dot the floor around the lathe used to shape the department's wooden retirement batons, showing recent work has already been done.

When asked how he felt about playing a part in the retirement of a department member, Ellis remains humble.

"I don't really think about it," he said.

Ellis has been making batons for more than 10 years, and he generally does two per day. Because of his skill-set, Ellis is able to spin a baton in about five minutes, and then he takes it over to be sanded and smoothed down. This shop is a two-person operation; Ellis' wife Shirley then takes the baton and applies the finish and varnish. That step takes anywhere between two and three days and is dependent on



Retired Officer Dewey Ellis creates the ceremonial wooden batons given to retiring department members. He also makes the benches on the Department's Trail of Heroes.



the weather.

In an interesting turn, Ellis is no stranger to turning batons. Before he made the ones for retirements, he would spin replacement wooden ba-

tons for officers who misplaced theirs back when KCPD officers still carried wooden batons.

Batons aren't Ellis' only specialty: he has also made wooden toys for community relations officers. He did that for 13 years.

"When a child made contact, it was often in a negative way," Ellis said. "The toys helped give the kids a positive police contact."

And if it seems Ellis couldn't get more creative, he also makes the benches for the Trail of Heroes located at the Police Academy. This process takes a bit longer, with assembly being about six hours. The benches present a unique challenge: they all have to look the same, and getting the same type of wood can be difficult at times. To help combat this issue, he orders several pieces of the wood required.

A visit to the workshop is a great opportunity to see just how creative Ellis

is and his passion for his craft. And to top off the visit, every visitor gets to select a wooden toy.

"No one leaves without getting a toy," Ellis said.

## PIT MANEUVER, *Cont. from p. 1*

scratch. They developed and installed their custom-built bumpers on two Crown Victorias by the end of August.

Then two SUVs hit the high-mileage mark (over 200,000 miles) and were ready to come off patrol duties. Crawford decided those would be perfect as TVI maneuver training vehicles since more and more officers are using them after the Crown Victoria was discontinued. They also have electronic stability control, which officers will increasingly confront on the roads after they became required in all new U.S. vehicles beginning in 2012. Because they're not built on a frame like Crown Vics, Allen and McCracken had to work extra hard

to fabricate a push bumper for the SUVs that wouldn't crumple the whole vehicle when they were used for the TVI maneuver. They even met with representatives from Ford to help them figure it out. It took them six weeks altogether to create and install the best training bumpers possible.

Implementing the TVI maneuver at KCPD will require a change in policy since it was previously prohibited. That's in the works in the Research and Development Division. Officer Moats said all of the Tactical officers should be fully trained and ready to use the TVI maneuver by November.

# Social worker helps refugee children, community

What started as a problem with theft has turned into a new start for refugee children and a whole neighborhood's shift in their perception of police.

Toward the end of July, residents of one neighborhood in the Historic Northeast area of Kansas City told East Patrol Division officers that they were having problems with theft. Boys were walking into homes and stealing money.

Since it involved youth, the officers brought in Social Worker Trena Miller. Miller started as the East Patrol social worker in March, when the department implemented them in every patrol division. The social workers attend weekly crime meetings and communicate regularly with officers about residents in need of assistance, especially early intervention for at-risk youth.

When Miller first went to the home where the boys lived, she saw four of them running in the streets with no shoes, despite the hot pavement. She later learned that was because they didn't have any shoes. They ranged in age from 6 to 13. And initially, they were terrified of her because she drives a Jeep. The boys' family came to the United States two years ago from Uganda.

"They said, 'That's what they shot our people from in Uganda,'" Miller said.

A neighborhood resident also kept in touch with the boys, and the oldest told her they'd seen several of their family members killed in Uganda. They also thought the metal circles attached to officer's patrol vehicle keys with the car's side numbers stamped on them were tabs from bombs. Once Miller let them into her Jeep to look around, they began to trust her. When they got to talking, they told her that it was actually other older neighborhood boys who were asking the "Uganda boys" to steal from houses for them.

"I talked with them about stealing and consequences, and I realized they had noth-

ing to do all day because their parents worked," she said.

They didn't even have so much as a ball to play with. So Miller went to work. The Police Athletic League provided them with a soccer ball.

"It was like Christmas when they got that," she said.

Toys weren't all they lacked. Miller asked them what a tub of clothes on their front porch was about. They replied that their mom collects clothes for them from trash

from East Patrol to interact with the boys.

"I've talked to them about what they want to be when they grow up, and now they all want to be police officers," she said.

The boys have been in no trouble since Miller intervened. When the kids who were putting them up to stealing before ask them to do something unsavory, they now say, "No, the police are our friends."

The residents of Indian Mound neighborhood have appreciated her work, as well. One of them saw the problems discussed in

her neighborhood's Facebook group and reached out to Captain Ryan Mills for help. He brought in Miller.

"She got right on it. The next time I saw the kiddos, they were thrilled about her and getting the extra attention and supplies," said the neighbor, who asked not to have her name used.

Miller sees the children every day, often on her own time. She takes them to the school bus stop at 6:30 a.m. daily. They're doing well in school. They'll run for school when they see her Jeep coming. Her frequent visits, often with police officers,

have benefited the whole area.

"By going over and meeting with these kids so frequently, it has opened an avenue to meet other families on the street and their parents," she said. "More kids are coming to shoot hoops with us and have really changed their opinion on police officers. ... It has been an obvious change in the neighborhood attitude towards law enforcement. It went from glaring at us when we would come down the street to now smiling and waving. I am grateful to be a part of this and see the impact this program has to bring unity to the community."

The Indian Mound neighbor said the boys have been in no trouble since Miller started working with them.

"She's been a hero, and they adore her," the neighbor said. "... The whole process has been amazing, and the intervention has been so positive."



**East Patrol social worker Trena Miller handed out bedding to a group of brothers from Uganda now living in the Historic Northeast area of Kansas City. Her work also helped stop a neighborhood theft problem.**

ing to do all day because their parents worked," she said. They didn't even have so much as a ball to play with. So Miller went to work. The Police Athletic League provided them with a soccer ball.

"I was able to get them several packs of socks and when I took them over, Emmanuel kissed them," she said. "They told me they were 'saving them for school.'"

But they didn't have anything for school, either – no supplies, no clothes and no shoes. So Miller asked the Fox 4 Love Fund for assistance, and it provided \$700 for a shopping spree for the kids. Miller used the money to get them school supplies, clothes, shoes and bedding. They didn't have any pillows or sheets. She also got them a hula hoop, sidewalk chalk, silly string and more to help them stay occupied.

"It's nice to help this family because they're really trying," she said. "The parents are working so hard, and it's nice to help them be successful."

She also brought around her coworkers

## Upcoming Events

October 6  
**Kansas City United  
Against Crime**

October 9  
**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

October 13  
**Mounted Patrol Open  
House**

October 21  
**KCPD Friends & Family  
Trunk or Treat at the  
Academy**

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Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
[www.kcpd.org](http://www.kcpd.org)

## Officially Speaking

### Awards

Certificates of Appreciation  
Chaplain Dennis Dewey

Life-Saving Awards  
Officer Brian Arant  
Captain Ryan Mills and Officer Aaron  
Smith

Meritorious Service Award  
Detective Aaron Fisher and  
Analyst Darin Lee  
Detective James Manley

Certificates of Commendation and  
Certificates of Appreciation  
Sergeant Lawrence Weimhold and  
Officers DeAngelo Dotson, Kevin Gui-  
er, Landon Hartley, John Mahoney,  
Chase Kuehl and Timothy Trost  
Independence Police Officers Joseph  
Gentile and Brian Hanrahan

### 25-Year Rings

Master Detective Eric Benson  
Sergeant Christopher Bentch  
Sergeant Andrew Dorothy

Sergeant Roger Hill  
Detective John Keil  
Officer Brian Leslie  
Officer Michael Merino  
Detective Michael Miller  
Officer David Nathan  
Sergeant Tamara Pronske  
Sergeant Anthony White  
Officer Mark Wilson

### Retirements

Detective Curtis Edde  
Major David Lindaman  
Detective James Morgan  
Detective Eric Powell-Ellison

### Obituaries

Captain Clinton Kelly  
Captain Douglas Miller

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri Police  
Department is to protect and  
serve with professionalism,  
honor and integrity.